

Sharon City School District

Office of the Superintendent

December 2, 2020

Dear Sharon City School District Parents and Friends,

The Sharon City School District will continue to operate in a virtual learning model through January 4, 2021. Holiday schedules will remain the same.

While transmission rates in the schools remain low, this decision was made based on the overwhelming impact [Mercer](https://public.tableau.com/profile/central.district.health#!/vizhome/CDHCOVID-19/CDHCOVID-19Information) County’s increasing cases of COVID-19 are having on school operations, including:

* A shortage of substitute teachers
* The number of students and staff who are quarantined
* Inconsistent learning due to large number of students and staff who are quarantined
* Capacity of teaching staff to sustain in-person teaching, virtual teaching and providing instructional support for students not attending
* Capacity of our nursing staff to monitor both day-to-day needs and COVID-19 cases.
* Inability to fill vacant classified positions for effective cleaning of the buildings.

This difficult decision was reached following ongoing consultation with the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Department of Education, as well as through a detailed analysis of the Mercer County and City of Sharon COVID-19 data and the effects the spike in community spread of coronavirus is having on both students and staff.

All district sponsored activities will remain suspended during this time including all athletics in grades K-9. Varsity and Junior Varsity teams may continue to practice and compete in games following the strict guidelines provided by the athletic department. . Administrators and Teachers will continue to work with students and their families to continue our successful virtual learning model. Thank you, once again for your understanding.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Calla

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Superintendent