 Sharon City School District

 Office of the Superintendent

 March 15, 2021

Dear Sharon Parents, Guardians and Community Members,

Once again, on behalf of the Board of Education and the staff of the School District, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during this, now yearlong pandemic. We are thankful that the number of cases has declined and that vaccination availability continues to increase in our region. While the situation has improved significantly, please know that we are still working hard to follow all recommended guidelines and to ensure that your children are provided a quality education despite the tumult surrounding us.

For the fourth and final quarter of the school year, all students Kindergarten through 12th grade will have the option for either In-Person Learning five days a week or Virtual Learning five days a week. We are STRONGLY encouraging all students to return to the classroom for the final grading period as we know that that is where the best learning takes place. Even with the potential for increased class sizes, we will continue implementing all mitigation strategies including required masking, socially distancing students to the greatest extent practical, and thorough cleaning protocols.

Please note that the learning model chosen is a commitment for the entire fourth quarter. For those continuing to choose virtual learning, please carefully review the Virtual Learning Expectations document found below before indicating your choice. The window for notifying the District of any change in your child’s placement for the fourth quarter is **Friday, March 19, 2021**. We ask that you use the following link to notify the District if you intend to change your child’s instructional option: <https://forms.gle/JQyPq5MkSS51tL2u7> . If you need assistance with logging in, please contact your child’s school.

The complete outline of the Sharon City School District’s Fourth Quarter Instructional Plan can be found at this link: <https://5il.co/qkxa>

Again, I thank you for your ongoing support of our efforts on behalf of your children!

Sincerely,

Michael J. Calla

Michael J. Calla

Superintendent

**Virtual Learning**

**Student and Parent Expectations**

**Q4 2021**

**Virtual Learning - Student and Parent Expectations**

Teaching students in any model that incorporates virtual learning presents challenges, additional requirements and may be stressful for students and families. Virtual learning requires unique commitments that may present obstacles unlike the traditional “in-person” learning model. ***In order for students to learn and experience success while participating in remote learning, there must be a commitment to specific expectations.*** Unlike the emergency learning that occurred in the spring with the onset of the pandemic, there is full accountability for student learning as reflected in assessments and grades.  Students are expected to attend asynchronous instruction daily, complete assignments independently and in a timely manner and proactively ask questions to clarify their learning goals.

**The following are guidelines for students and parents to ensure the highest probability of student success. Please contact your child’s teachers and/or administrators with any questions or concerns.**

**Parent/Caregiver/Family Responsibilities** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* **Designate a quiet space** for your child to complete work and attend Google Meets synchronous classes.
* Help them **establish a routine** for getting up and being prepared for class as if they were attending in person. Ensure they are logging in to a synchronous lesson from bed is not acceptable.
* Discuss and **review student work** assigned.
* **Ensure that all work is completed by your child and turned in on time**. Please support your child in their learning, but refrain from completing their work for them or providing too much of the response in their work. Question them, support them finding the answers on their own, help them ask the right questions, but too much assistance may result in teachers believing a student has acquired a skill set that they have not. This hinders their ability to address deficits in their learning.
* **Discuss Virtual learning etiquette with your child.** Using a digital platform like Google Meets involves using their laptop camera, chatting in the sidebar and managing their microphone. Ensure that your child clearly understands that chats must be appropriate and related to the lesson, their microphone should be off unless they are called on, and all interactions on camera should be appropriate for class. Inappropriate comments, chats or videos may result in your child being removed from the lesson and potential school discipline.
* Encourage your child to **get enough sleep.**
* **Check in with your child's teacher periodically** (amount of parent contact with the teacher is dependent on the student's grade).

**Virtual Student Responsibilities** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* **Keep your laptop charged.**
* **Attend Google Meet sessions** for synchronous instruction at assigned times. Each building will provide schedules. Asynchronous lessons must be accessed from the teacher's Google Classroom.
* **Complete the assigned work** in Google Classroom.
* **Complete the assigned work** independently by the due date.
* **Ask clarifying questions** when you need help or don’t understand.
* **Schedule individual meetings** and conferences as needed.
* Using a digital platform like Google Meets involves using the laptop camera, chatting in the sidebar and managing the microphone. **Chats must be appropriate** and related to the lesson. The microphone should be off unless called you are called on, and all interactions on camera should be appropriate for class. Inappropriate comments, chats or video may result in being removed from the lesson and potential school discipline.
* **Get enough sleep**.
* Student learning is dependent upon work ethic and preparedness. As a result, in order to learn and retain new understandings, you need to **prepare and practice** throughout the entire learning process.

**Grading and Attendance**

* **Students will be graded on all assignments**. Missed assignments will be recorded as 0% and will negatively impact a student’s quarter and final grade.
* Students who do not meet District and Pennsylvania standards, due to incomplete work **will be recommended for retention in grade or subject area**.
* **Students must complete the daily attendance document**. Students not reporting attendance will be recorded as unlawfully absent and reported to truancy authorities.
* Students who exceed District limits for attendance (15 days in a Semester or 30 days in a school year without medical excuse) **will be recommended for retention in grade or subject area.**