



March 26, 2020

On Tuesday, March 24, 2020, all Ohioans found themselves adjusting to Governor DeWine's "Stay at Home" order. This drastic measure was taken to slow the spread of the Coronavirus. We are all in this together. The "Stay at Home" order expires at 11:59 pm on April 6, 2020, and our hope is to return to school at that time. Seneca East, like all schools in Ohio, was closed the week prior to this order. During the school closure, Seneca East is committed to continuing to educate and support our students. These lessons are being provided through alternative means. As we make these changes we are grateful to our families for your support and patience. This is new to all of us and it will be messy at times.

#### EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

The first two weeks of the closure have gone well. Parents, students, and teachers have connected in various ways by using different educational platforms. An email directory for teachers is available on the district web site [www.se-tigers.com](http://www.se-tigers.com). Parents and students should contact teachers directly with any questions regarding instructional needs or materials. Hundreds of emails between teachers, parents, and students have already exchanged, so do not hesitate to reach out for help.

Google Classroom has provided a great way for teachers to assess and provide feedback on students' learning. Class Dojo is another commonly used platform at the elementary level for teacher feedback. Additionally, many teachers have posted video messages and lessons for students. Many classes have video conferences where the entire class is invited to join for class discussion. We realize utilizing all of these resources is new for parents, students, and teachers alike, so again we thank you for your patience and your willingness to grow with us.

Here are just a few unique classroom events that happened this week.

- Online group games. Students met at an agreed-upon time and competed against each other to see who could answer the most questions correctly.

- Students share videos of themselves practicing their musical instruments from home.
- The Kindness Club sponsored a virtual spirit week.
- Shared yoga workout for PE class
- A bedtime book was read to students Wednesday night via Facebook
- One teacher made quick stops at each of my students' homes to deliver a note and a box of sidewalk chalk to their mailboxes or front steps.

The staff at Seneca East continues to do a miraculous job educating our students even through these challenging times and through distance learning. The cooperation with our families in the community is thoroughly appreciated. Connections between home and school have always been important in the education of our students, but now, it is even more important as we are forced to learn remotely. We are encouraging staff, students, and parents alike to stay in constant contact with each other as we face this challenge straight on in furthering the educational purpose for our students. As teachers become more adept at online learning expect more innovative ways for student learning in the coming weeks!

Grade cards for the third quarter will be available for parents and students on Progress Book.

As we approach the third week of the school closure teachers who are using packets for work at home will be developing the next educational materials for the possibility of an extended closure. Information regarding additional work packets will come from Mr. Brad Powers.

In addition to the educational opportunities provided by our teachers, there are a wealth of resources for educational opportunities at home

- All of the following reading resources are listed under the Media Center tab on the SE website (parents can contact [aschimpf@se-tigers.com](mailto:aschimpf@se-tigers.com) if they need username or password info for any resources)
- INFOhio Resources
  - Bookflix (for Primary Grades under INFOhio link K-5)
  - Highlights Digital Library (for Second Grade)
  - Storia (for Grades 4-5 under INFOhio link K-5)
  - iSearch (MS & HS)
- MackinVia- ebooks
- JLG at Home- ebooks
- Audible - audiobooks for kids
- Flipster - digital magazines
- [Children's Author Live Events on Social Media](#)

## COUNSELOR SUPPORT

This is a stressful time for everyone and we know that there may be students and families who need to reach out to our school counselors for social-emotional support. Please do not hesitate to contact the counselors during this time. They are here to help.

Heather Stockmaster, 9-12 Counselor [hstockmaster@se-tigers.com](mailto:hstockmaster@se-tigers.com) or call 419-426-1856

Heather Schalk, K-8 Counselor [hschalk@se-tigers.com](mailto:hschalk@se-tigers.com) or call 419-426-1862

Charla VanOsdol, Mental Health Services [cvanosdol@se-tigers.com](mailto:cvanosdol@se-tigers.com)

If you call the counselors please leave a message. The voicemail will be delivered to them at home and they will be able to retrieve the message and call you back.

The Ohio Department of Education has also posted a good social-emotional resource in regards to COVID-19 for parents to help their kids who may be struggling emotionally at:

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Coronavirus/Supporting-Children%e2%80%99s-Social-Emotional-and-Behavior>

## TECH SUPPORT

Any students experiencing technical issues should contact Mike Waldon: Email [mwaldon@se-tigers.com](mailto:mwaldon@se-tigers.com)

If there are families still in need of a Chromebook during this closure please contact Brad Powers at [bpowers@se-tigers.com](mailto:bpowers@se-tigers.com) to make arrangements. These will be distributed by appointment.

There is currently an open Access Point for those in need of internet connectivity at Seneca East. Families who need internet service can merely pull up to the curb just outside the main office. Please remain in your vehicle, but if you have your Chromebook, you do not need a specific password to connect to the wifi service. Avoid this area on Mondays and Thursdays between 11:30-12:30 when lunches are being distributed curbside.

Progressbook access/ login (for students only) is the same as students' Google password. Any **student** having an issue accessing Progressbook should contact Mr. Waldon. He will reset your Google password. This will allow you to gain access again.

If **parents** need Progressbook passwords reset please contact [aschimpf@se-tigers.com](mailto:aschimpf@se-tigers.com)

Parents can find a great tutorial for Google Classroom on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2lowi-gmbys>

Seneca East continues to consider solutions for our families who have no Internet service in their homes for their students to use. More information will be forthcoming regarding this issue. We have reached out to Verizon for portable HotSpots, but these devices are currently

back-ordered and unavailable. We will contact families we know are in this situation when options become available.

## FOOD SERVICE

Order meals online for pick up every Monday and Thursday from 11:30-12:30. The order form is on the district website and needs to be completed by 8:00 am on the day of pick-up so we know how many meals to prepare. If there are any questions or concerns about pick-up, call Brenda Ruffing, Food Service Supervisor at 419-426-1859 or text 419-558-5683.

## FUTURE EVENTS

We know that graduation is a major concern and question for our seniors and their families, but at this time it is too soon to know what will happen. We do know that we WILL have a graduation ceremony. Students work incredibly hard to reach this milestone and we want to celebrate this accomplishment with our students, their families, and our community. We are looking at alternative dates for graduation in the event that we cannot host it on May 24th. More information will be forthcoming regarding graduation when we have a better idea of what the future holds for large events.

The prom is another event that may be subject to cancellation. We would like to have a prom for our students as we know this is an event they look forward to all year. It is just too soon to know what will happen with the prom.

The Washington DC trip for eighth-grade students is canceled. Families should have received a refund. We will look into options for taking two grade levels of students next year so that these students do not miss the opportunity.

The sixth-grade Nuhop camp trip may also need to be canceled. If this happens we will attempt to reschedule this trip for students to go next year.

Kindergarten Screening may need to be rescheduled. At this time it is too soon to know if this will be necessary. Summer dates will be offered as screening dates if this becomes necessary. Any parent with questions regarding kindergarten screen should contact Brad Powers at 419-426-1854 or [bpowers@se-tigers.com](mailto:bpowers@se-tigers.com).

## COMMUNICATION

We will continue to update parents, students, and the community via the district website, [www.se-tigers.com](http://www.se-tigers.com), our social media feeds and the Seneca East App. Please download the district app for your smartphones in your play store as Seneca East Local Tigers. Please realize that information regarding the Coronavirus and the school closure changes rapidly, the best way to stay informed is on the district website.

