

South Lewis Central School District

Mr. Douglas Premo, Superintendent

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www.southlewis.org

April 8, 2020

Dear South Lewis School Community:

I hope this message finds everyone healthy and safe. We continue to follow the developments of COVID-19 very closely and its impact on our ability to maintain our essential functions and responsibilities, which include education continuity and meal services for our students.

As you may be aware, Governor Cuomo has extended his Executive Order regarding school closure until April 29th. The Governor's declaration requires all school districts to forfeit any remaining snow days and vacation days in order to receive State Aid during the closure period. Therefore, as we prepare for the extension of the school closure period, we will be continuing the virtual learning that our instructional staff have been implementing to this point. *This instruction is required, per the Governor's Executive Order, to continue and take place during our scheduled Spring Recess the week of April 13-17.* Below is some important information on several topics:

Educational Resource Packets #2:

- A second round of Educational Resource Packets will be delivered directly to your home, via bus routes, on **Thursday, April 16th**. Students and Parents can expect their packet to be delivered between approximately 9:00am and Noon.

Please note that these Educational Resource packets are not intended to "re-create" school at home. Students are typically in school for seven hours and often have homework. This typical school day included down/transition time, teacher-led lectures, physical activity, artistic expression/opportunity, etc... Trying to re-create school will not work for students, families or instructional staff working from home. As students receive work to complete from teachers and participate in virtual and on-line sessions, student work time should equate to approximately 60-90 minutes for elementary students and 90-180+ minutes for secondary students (this may vary on any given day/subject/grade and content i.e. college-level courses). Lastly, self-directed, less-structured activities and assignments that produce critical thinking and creativity from students can prove beneficial in this new learning environment.

While student work is not being "graded" at this time, there is an expectation that students, to the extent possible, work to maintain their skills and participate in the educational opportunities being provided to them. There is also an expectation that our instructional staff, to the extent possible, provide feedback and guidance to their students.

IPad and Chromebook Sign-Out:

- Students in grades UPK to 3rd will be able to sign-out an iPad and students in grades 4th to 7th will be able to sign-out a Chromebook.
- **Sign-out will be at your child's home school on Tuesday, April 14th from 8:00am to 4:00pm.**
 - Port Leyden and Glenfield sign-out will be through each cafeteria.
 - Middle School sign-out will be through the MS/HS Band Room.

3rd Marking Period Grades/Report Cards:

- All students, UPK to 12th Grade, will not be provided with a 3rd Marking Period Grade at this time. Rather, they will be provided with a mark of *None* or *Incomplete*. Upon return to school, students will have an opportunity to complete make-up work through the March 13th date when school was closed. No report cards will be mailed at this time.
- The 4th Marking Period grading process is unknown at this time. This process will be dependent upon the date of return to school.

Food Service/M Meal Services:

- Breakfast/lunch delivery continues on Monday and Wednesday (expect delivery from approximately 10:00am to Noon). If you want to be added for food service/meal delivery, please contact the Food Service Office at 315-348-2543.
- Backpack Program delivery continues on Friday (from approximately 10:00am to Noon).

Counseling Supports:

- All in-person counseling sessions have been suspended. Sessions will continue to the extent possible through virtual opportunities or over the phone. Should students/families have needs that are not being met, please reach out to a counselor so we can work to help improve the situation. Our counselors are also working with community agencies to assist with volunteering efforts throughout the community.

Building/Office Hours and Visitors:

- Our school staff have reduced hours and many are working from home.
- Should you contact an office/school and do not receive an answer, please leave a message and we will return the call as soon as possible.
- The District remains closed to visitors and all doors are locked. Should an emergency arise that requires you to be on campus, we ask that you call ahead to make an appointment. All approved visitors will need to be "buzzed" in and checked in through our Safety Desk. This check-in will include a basic health and wellness protocol.

School Communications:

- During this time we will continue to communicate via SchoolMessenger calls, push notifications on our smartphone app (please download from Google Play or the Apple App Store and turn-on push notifications), and Peachjar flyers via electronic distribution. Our school website, www.southlewis.org, will also have up-to-date information and resources and supports.

Additional Updates:

- Grade 3-8 NYS Assessments have been canceled/waived for the 2019-20 school year.
- Regents Exams have been canceled for the 2019-20 school year.
 - Our school staff is currently working through the guidance provided by SED regarding the canceled Regents Exams. SED has provided great latitude for Districts to make local decisions to ensure that the cancellation of these exams will not adversely impact current or future graduates.
- BOE Meetings/School Governance activities continue.
- School Annual Votes (Budget, Buses, Election) have been postponed from May until June.

I would again like to reiterate that this is all an on-going and continued work in progress – what is true today, may not be accurate tomorrow. The ground continues to move under our feet with on-going Executive Orders, SED Guidance, and Public Health interest. However, we will continue to work to keep you updated and informed.

During these uncertain times, we will continue to keep our focus on the children that we serve and what we can do to help them through this situation. We thank you for your patience, understanding and flexibility. Please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,



Douglas Premo
Superintendent of Schools

Key District Phone Numbers:

District Office: 315-348-2500	Port Leyden: 315-348-2660
Glenfield: 315-348-2620	Middle School: 315-348-2570
High School: 315-348-2520	Transportation: 315-348-2590
Food Service: 315-348-2543	Technology: 315-348-2567
Special Education: 315-348-2551	Athletics: 315-348-2562
Curriculum-Data: 315-348-2517	