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September 11, 2020

SLSD Parents and Guardians,

Over the last two weeks I have observed the staff and students of the Southern Lehigh School District engage in meaningful social, emotional, and academic pursuits that many would not have believed were possible just a few short months ago. Although we cannot guarantee that everything has been completely smooth, the staff of the Southern Lehigh School District will continue to work diligently and look forward to the opportunities that they have to engage our students in critical learning.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have asked our community to remain flexible, compassionate, and adjust to this constantly evolving situation. The stress that has accompanied COVID-19 has been expansive, and it likely will continue to weigh on our staff, students, and community in both similar and dissimilar ways. While school remains different, that does not mean that the work we are all engaged in will not be rewarding or valuable.

While we all must collectively continue to recognize that a learning curve will continue to exist for us all, I continue to have complete confidence in our teachers, staff, and administration. They will continue to care for, engage alongside, and guide our students regardless of the circumstances. In the coming week the Southern Lehigh School District will share information specific to the transition of our secondary students from the current Fully Remote Learning Model back to their school buildings in a Hybrid Instructional Model. District administration is working closely with building administration to build a plan that focuses on a phased return that takes into account timely transitions for both students and staff. This process will start with transitioning students into an expanded fully remote schedule that will match the time window that the SLMS and SLHS Hybrid Instructional Model Schedule will meet. Both SLMS and SLHS will have a single week-long transition period for our 7th and 9th grade students at the conclusion of the first marking period. Following that transition period, the remaining students will return to both SLMS and SLHS following the Hybrid Instructional Model. Please know we will continue to be guided by the recommendations and guidance from the CDC, PA Department of Education, and PA Department of Health. While this planning is ongoing, we must emphasize that the return to school will continue to be different than previous in-person learning experiences.

We continue to seek the support of our community as we work together to keep our students and staff safe while ensuring that our schools are operating effectively during this pandemic. Please review the following information in an effort to ensure that the District is able to connect with our families and help those in need.



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- [Sapphire](#) - Please review the demographic information that your family has in the Sapphire Student Information System. Pay particular attention to the contact telephone numbers listed in Sapphire. We rely on our families to ensure that this information is up-to-date. Accurate contact information is essential should the District have to share demographic information with the PA Department of Health to complete COVID-19 Contact Tracing.
- [School Counselor Support Google Form](#) - The SLSD K-12 School Counselor Team has created the following Google Form to provide families who have been negatively impacted by the effects of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic with an opportunity to seek support from their student's School Counselor.
- [Student Technology Assistance](#) - The Information Technology Department will continue to utilize a digital helpdesk system open to all students. Students can login with their SpartanDocs account to create tech help desk tickets remotely if they are having issues with their district issued devices. Please contact our IT department through this system if issues arise and they will work to remedy those challenges quickly and professionally.
- [Reopening of Schools Resources](#) - The District will continue to update the information on the Reopening of Schools Resource pages to ensure that families have access to the most up-to-date information.

As we look forward, I continue to be proud of the work that the Southern Lehigh School District staff is engaged in each day. I ask that our community remain patient as we continue to plan instruction during a global pandemic using resources and tools that are often different than those utilized in traditional instructional pursuits. Please remember that the staff of the Southern Lehigh School District chooses to engage in the important work of K-12 education because helping children is what is important to us all. We will continue to keep our community informed, and I am confident that we will emerge stronger as a result of these challenges.

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