

March 27, 2020

Dear SCCS Families,

Today, you will receive two messages from my office. This message and a message from all County Superintendents. I hope this communication finds that you and your families are healthy and adjusting to the shelter-in-place order and distance learning.

The message from all of the County Superintendents explains that school closure is extended through May 5th, with the potential of an extension beyond that if necessary. I am writing today to update you on our district's distance learning and other important resources available during this time.

Distance Learning

Today, we complete our first week of distance learning. Teachers have prepared lessons and materials for students to access in various ways, some using paper packets and some fully online. Many teachers have continued to participate in professional development opportunities this week to build their skills to provide online instruction. And, as an organization, we are all still learning how to provide instruction from a distance. All staff are meeting regularly, assessing what is working and making adjustments to our instructional and student support plans.

There have been many questions about grading and assessment. Right now, we are focused on providing feedback to students on their work and creating opportunities for virtual connection with their teachers and their classmates. We are working to figure out how to effectively assess and support all students with the understanding that not everyone has access to online learning yet. Please be patient with us as we work together with colleagues across the County and State to develop protocols and practices that support all students.

Internet Hotspots and Chromebooks

We have distributed more than 1,500 Chromebooks to date. We recognize that not every family has internet access at home. As of this morning, the district has only received 100 of the internet hotspots that were ordered. We are expecting another shipment of several hundred hotspots soon, but do not have a definitive date. Your school Principal will contact you when we have hotspots available for check out. Only one hotspot is needed per family.

Tech Support

If your child is struggling with accessing materials online or using a Chromebook, please contact your child's teacher first. If you are not able to get your questions answered, you may call our tech support line and leave a message for tech support in both English and Spanish. The SCCS Tech Support line is 831-664-9030.

Food Service

Food Service is available Monday through Friday at the following times and locations. We are serving a packed lunch and breakfast to all children from age 1 to 18 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the locations listed below. If you drive up, staff will hand you bagged meals through your car window. Families may also walk to the sites. We will be distributing extra food for the weekend each Friday, beginning today.

- Beach Flats Community Center
- Bay View Elementary
- Branciforte Middle School
- Harbor High School

Here is a link to our webpage with other food service locations in our community: [Food Service Locations](#)

Census

It's crucial that our counties receive adequate state and federal funding to provide essential resources and services to the communities they serve, especially in times of crisis. One way that we can advocate for continuity of fair federal and state funding to our area is to help ensure Santa Cruz County is accurately counted in the 2020 Census. The Census is a simple 9 question survey, and responses are confidential and protected by law. Every Californian can now respond to the Census online at <https://my2020census.gov> and by phone. For more information and frequently asked questions, please visit california.census.org.

Parent Resources

We are working to develop parent resources to support distance learning and your family's social-emotional needs while at home. Sheltering in place creates many stressors in each of our households. We recognize that every family has a unique situation and different needs at this time. Please check our website for continued updates this week providing resource links. Our student services team is working on a plan for parent distance learning networking groups and parent support groups as we are all faced with this unprecedented situation. We will get information out on these new offerings soon.

Communication

I recognize that the volume of communication can be overwhelming for parents, students and staff right now. Each time an assignment is entered into Google Classroom students receive an email. We are trying to streamline communication home as much as possible. Please be patient with us and our response time as all staff are fielding a tremendous amount of incoming requests and questions.

Please check our district website at www.sccs.net for updates and our Santa Cruz City Schools Facebook page for celebrations and videos from our sites.

Our countywide "Shelter-in-place" status is important to slow the spread of COVID-19 and it is a significant challenge for everyone in our community. Our teachers, support staff and leaders have done incredible work to transition our services in a matter of days. I want to express my deep gratitude to them and to all of you as you are supporting your children at home during this pandemic.

Please take good care of yourselves and stay healthy.

Best regards,

Kris Munro
Superintendent