



SOMERS POINT
SCHOOL DISTRICT
the learning starts here!™

SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

121 West New York Avenue
Somers Point, New Jersey 08244

Phone: (609) 927-2053 ~ Fax: (609) 927-7351 ~

www.sptsd.org



Michelle CarneyRay-Yoder, Ed.D., Superintendent Ext: 3211

Michele Roemer, Ed.D., Interim Business Administrator/ Board Secretary Ext: 3220

March 13, 2020

Dear Somers Point School District Families:

I wanted to provide you with an update on the COVID-19 preparation, should we need a closure for mitigation purposes. The situation is fluid and ever evolving. Currently we are receiving briefings and updates from the county and state on a daily basis, please continue to check updates on our plans at www.sptsd.org, Facebook, and Twitter. We want our families to know that we understand the importance of our students receiving their education and the burden that closing our schools would place on working families. Our goal is if it is deemed that closing our schools is necessary to maintain the health and safety of our community, we will be prepared to do so.

Over the last few days, there have been many Atlantic County meetings and discussions with our District regarding CoVID-19. We have been consulting with the Department of Education, the Atlantic County Department of Education, along with the Atlantic County Department of Health. This letter is to update you on our progress since the letter sent home on March 2, 2020. Our goal is to keep schools open unless we receive guidance from a government agency. Today, I attended a county meeting where suggestions were given to address COVID-19 as mitigation. This means making decisions and enacting practices that will reduce the spread and severity of this illness.

In my letter last week, I wrote about keeping children home if they are sick. Since then, additional guidance has been provided.

Per CDC and DOE guidance, effective immediately, any students, Staffuly, parents, visitors, vendors and others who have traveled to/transited within countries that have a Level 3 Travel Health Notice (widespread, ongoing transmission; including China, South Korea, Iran, and Italy) OR who have flu-like symptoms, are being asked to stay home and avoid contact with others for 14 days from the time you left the area and practice social distancing.

What is social distancing? Examples are avoiding crowded spaces, public transportation including school buses, and keep an approximate 6-10 feet from others.

A posting for all school entrances clarifies that there are no visitors for assemblies, activities, or classroom events during the day to support this effort. In addition, all activities and sports will be suspended until further notice to assist with limiting exposure for our students and Staffuly. As of March 13, 2020, all night events are postponed until further notice, including the Junie B. Jones Jr. Play (projected for production in May), the Healthy Family Night at Dawes, the Talent Show at Jordan, and the Someone Special Dance for K-3rd sponsored by the Jordan Road Student Council.

State Requirements and Waivers

- In the State of New Jersey, public schools are required to complete 180 days of school, which means the school is opened with children and Staffuly physically present.
- For required closures due to COVID-19, a waiver opportunity is being provided, meaning that the days do not need to be made up because educational activities are being provided.
- Districts need to submit a plan and have it approved by the Department of Education to receive the waiver.

District Planning / Continuity of Education

- Grade, content, and program-based educational activities are being developed as a form of home instruction.
- **Jordan Road School** will be electronic depending on the platform used currently by their classroom teachers.
 - o *If your child needs paper due to limited access to technology and/ or internet, please send in the attached form to opt-in to paper materials for home instruction.*
 - o *The students **are not** to complete these assignments until they are instructed to do so and only in the event of a school closing. The materials are only for school mandated closure and directions to use these lessons will come from the district and be communicated via a phone message and posted on Social Media along with the website (www.sptsd.org).*
- **Dawes Avenue and New York Avenue** will be paper packets.
 - o *The students **are not** to complete these assignments until they are instructed to do so and only in the event of a school closing. The materials are only for school mandated closure and directions to use these lessons will come from the district and be communicated via a phone message and posted on Social Media along with the website (www.sptsd.org).*
- *If you have a scheduled meeting with Guidance or CST, the team will call you at that scheduled time, even if school is closed*

Breakfast/ Lunch for Students

- If you child is eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch, there will be an opportunity to pick up breakfasts and lunches for the entire week.
- Pick up at Jordan Road, one time a week.
- More details will follow through the Blackboard Connect message from the Superintendent.
- Please wait for further instructions, should we close.

Educating and Supporting our Students

- Along with our goal to remain open, we see a responsibility to educate our children about this situation.
- This is being done in a positive manner since we do not wish to heighten concerns about COVID-19 or illness in general.
- Our Staffuly is frequently reminding students about *healthy habits* to prevent the spread of illness: washing your hands for 20 seconds; covering your cough; avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth; and staying home if you are sick.
- Additional posters about healthy habits such as handwashing are being added to the schools.
- As a family, you are encouraged to make decisions about how much media and conversation about COVID-19 you want your children to see and hear.

- If your child is experiencing stress or anxiety over this situation, please contact your child's teacher, counselor, or CST case manager.

School Cleaning

- The District has moved to a non-toxic, certified organic, water-based cleaning product to sterilize common areas (every night) and classrooms (every other night). The classroom cleaning process will adjust if an illness is reported and then the classroom will be sterilized. The product the District has moved to is used in other school districts in Atlantic County along with local medical facilities.

Resources

- State Hotline 1- 800-222-1222
- State Website <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>.
- Center for Disease Control Website <https://www.cdc.gov/>
- Atlantic County Department of Health website <https://www.atlantic-county.org/public-health/>

Please look for updates regarding our plans as well as other pertinent information. Our Staffuly remains committed to the safety and well-being of your children. If you have any questions, please contact me at mcarneyray-yoder@sptsd.org or 609-927-2053, ext. 3211.

Sincerely,



Michelle CarneyRay-Yoder, Ed.D., *Superintendent*
-Attachment

OPT-IN FOR PAPER HOME INSTRUCTION PACKET
JORDAN ROAD ONLY

Student Name: _____

Homeroom Teacher: _____

Grade: _____

PARENT CONTACT

Parent Cell Phone Number: _____

Parent Email: _____

Additional Needs:

- Pens
- Pencils
- Art Supplies
- Extra Paper
- Other (if determined to be needed by teachers):
