

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Here is an update regarding Southern's COVID-19 plans:

Breakfast & Lunch Opportunities:

The last day the district will be providing free meals is on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. On Wednesday, May 20, 2020, it will include 2 breakfasts and 2 lunches.

Contingency Plan for the Fall:

The Commissioner of Education, Matt Blomstedt, recently went on record and advised local district leaders to draw up contingency plans in case the coronavirus crisis lingers on in the fall. It's hard to say yet what the situation might look like this fall, but possibilities include delaying the start of the school year, separating students into groups and rotating them into school buildings at different times or using partial or complete distance learning. The administration is currently working on different contingency plans for the fall, while being fully aware that parents work fulltime jobs and that preschool/elementary students cannot be left at home alone on different days during a given school week. If a contingency plan is needed, it will be released to the public in early July.

Continuity of Learning Plan:

The last day that seniors will be participating in the district's Continuity of Learning Plan is on May 8, 2020. The last day that preschool through juniors will be participating in the district's Continuity of Learning Plan is on May 21, 2020.

Extending Reading & Math Blocks (Students Going into 1st-3rd Grade):

Since learning reading and math at the primary grades provide the building blocks for students to be successful in the years ahead, the district is planning on changing all 1st-3rd grade schedules for next year to provide more time for reading and math instruction. We will be using the daily science and social studies block during the first quarter to get students caught up on these foundational skills that they missed out on during the school closure.

Graduation 2020:

Southern has set August 1 at 5:00 p.m. for our graduation ceremony. Our hope is to hold a traditional ceremony, however, at this point, we are planning three options: a traditional ceremony, an alternate ceremony with limited attendance, or a virtual ceremony (Depending on the Directed Health Measure at that time).

Summer School Packets (Students Going into 1st-6th Grade):

We will once again be offering summer school to all students going into 1st-6th grade. Based on the Directed Health Measure, we will be providing optional summer school packets to be completed during the first four weeks in June. The summer school packets can be picked up at the Elementary School from 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. on one of the following days: May 15, May 18, or May 20. Students' participation in summer school is not required.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your building principal.

Sincerely,

Southern Public Schools