



Remsenburg - Speonk U.F.S.D.

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DLS:363

April 4, 2020

Dear RSE Families,

As you have completed your first full week of distance learning, I am hopeful that you are feeling more confident than you were at the beginning of the week. I know that there is a tremendous learning curve when it comes to this type of instruction in combination with balancing work life and having to support children with school work. This is something that we are all struggling with these days. Our RSE faculty is ready and able to support you in any way that we can. Communication is of the utmost importance at this tumultuous time. If there is an accommodation that would help you, please reach out to your child's teacher, our psychologist, Mrs. Ferone, or me, or Mrs. Cirone, and we will be happy to work with you. For cyber security reasons, our email addresses are no longer listed on the district webpage. However, all emails for staff are the person's *last name* @rsufsd.org. If you have trouble reaching a staff member, please reach out to me directly at sullivan@rsufsd.org and I will assist you.

Last week, Governor Cuomo issued an executive order closing schools through at least April 15th. In that order, it also mandates that schools remain open next week through what would have been Spring Break. We understand and respect that the intention of this break from school is for religious observances. For this reason, as a faculty, we have agreed that Thursday, 4/9, and Friday, 4/10, will be used as "catch-up" days. Thursday and Friday are the highest of the holy days and we understand that it may be a time for tradition and family. Therefore, our teachers have agreed that on these days, no new assignments will be given to students but rather this can be time that our children use to complete any outstanding assignments or projects. Our faculty will remain available to children on both days in the event they need assistance.

In striving towards educational excellence during these unprecedented times, our district had to submit a Continuity of Learning Plan to the State Education Department. The plan includes the following components:

GOAL OF THIS PLAN: To "consider the needs of all students and to strive to ensure that any plans for continuity of learning are equitable and available to all students."

~ NYS Interim Commissioner of Education, Shannon Tahoe, March 17, 2020

TECHNOLOGY

Computers and iPads were provided to any student who needed one for home use. For students who do not have WIFI access, paper packets were provided.

ATTENDANCE / COMMUNICATION

Assignments will be posted by 9 A.M. in Google Classroom. Teachers will determine attendance of students based on the work they are submitting and documentation of student responses (via email, through Google Classroom, Remind 101, telephone, or any other means of communication the teacher has established with students.) Teachers will continue to communicate with parents and assist them, when necessary, in helping them to move forward with supporting their children at home. Teachers are available during the regular school hours, 8:40 A.M. through 3:40 P.M., Monday through Friday. Every effort will be made to respond to students and families within 24 hours.

DIGITAL INSTRUCTION

Classroom teachers and special area teachers (i.e. Physical Education, Art, Music, Library and Technology) have created Google Classrooms for each grade level. Mrs. Ferone, School Psychologist, has also created a Social Emotional Learning Google Classroom, that contains optional activities for students to take part in while they learn from home.

The platform we have chosen to utilize for distance learning is most likely new to parents. The following links are short tutorials on the use of Google Classroom and could provide some assistance to those who need support.

[Preview YouTube video To Do List in Google Classroom](#)[To Do List in Google Classroom](#)

[Preview YouTube video Parents Guide to Google Classroom in 2020](#)[Parents Guide to Google Classroom in 2020](#)

GRADING/ASSESSMENTS

As we continue this journey together, as a team, as to not add to fear, anxiety, and confusion for both staff and students, I have asked that we allow our students time to get acclimated and allow for time for students to settle into this new way of learning. At this point, we have agreed to provide students with “narrative feedback,” that allows the student to understand what they did well and what they need to work on. As we get closer to the next trimester report card, we will make a determination on how we will report grades for the final trimester report card. Until then, students must participate and show effort in the work they are producing.

New York State, Grades 3-8 Assessments have been cancelled for the 2019-2020, school year. This includes ELA, Math, Science, English as a Second Language Achievement Tests (NYSESLAT), and NYS Alternate Assessment exams.

CHILDCARE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

The Remsenburg-Speonk School District has an existing relationship with SCOPE Educational Services. For families who are on the front lines of this pandemic and are in need of assistance with child care for their children, our district can provide that assistance through Suffolk County and SCOPE Educational Services. If you are a first-responder or healthcare professional and need such assistance, please contact me directly at sullivan@rsufsd.org

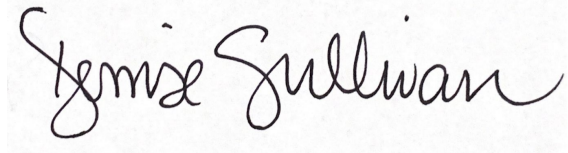
SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE

In the Governor’s executive order, he mandated that School Budget votes be delayed until at least June 1st. More information will be distributed once it becomes available. We, in the Business Office, are working as

“normal” to ensure that everything is set and ready for the coming school year and the budget is in a place that will allow our children to have what they need to soar.

I wish you and your family good health. If there is anything that I can do to assist you in these challenging times, please let me know. Please continue to take the precautions necessary to remain healthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Denise Sullivan" in a cursive script. The first name "Denise" is written in a larger, more prominent cursive, and "Sullivan" follows in a similar but slightly smaller cursive. The signature is centered horizontally.

Denise Lindsay-Sullivan
Superintendent of Schools/Principal