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Superintendent

KELLY ROTH  
Director of Student Services

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MARY ANN BAINES  
Director of Financial Services

February 12, 2021

Dear Sunman-Dearborn Community School Corporation Parents:

As we move through this school year, we continue to modify various protocols based on experience and data. While we are far from normal, we are certainly closer to normal than we were at the beginning of the school year. We are able to schedule various events with limited capacities and provide as many opportunities as possible for our students. Thanks to you and your students for your efforts as they are greatly appreciated. Please take a few moments to read through some important updates below.

### **E-Learning**

Last spring, when our schools were shut down from Spring Break until the end of the school year, our teachers, administrators, staff, parents, and students all worked together to implement e-learning. It was not perfect, but given the circumstances, we made the best of a very difficult time for all of us.

Last year, the Technology Committee began some preliminary discussion about implementing e-learning but had not come to a final decision. Due to COVID-19, the spring shutdown, and all the uncertainties, the School Board approved a revised 2020-2021 school calendar with both planned e-learning days, and e-learning days for inclement weather. In October, the board approved the 2021-2022 school calendar with e-learning days for inclement weather as well.

In order to comply with the state required 180 instructional days and provide continuity of instruction for our students we implemented e-learning. Historically, we have had poor attendance on snow make-up days, particularly days during Spring Break and at the end of the school year.

On a typical live instruction day at school, students receive approximately four (4) hours of instruction once time necessary for arrival, dismissal, transition, recess, lunch, etc. are removed. Our e-learning expectations focus on Language Arts, Reading, and Math at grades K-5. The total e-learning time for a K-5 student should be around 1.5 - 2 hours each day, and around 3 hours per day for students in grades 6-12. This plan intentionally allows parents and student flexibility as needed.

It is important that all students complete their e-learning lessons. Please be sure time is set aside during e-learning to complete these assignments. Teachers plan their lessons for the next day of live instruction based on the e-learning lessons. Thank you for your help with this.

### **Spring Break Planned E-Learning**

We will continue with the School Board approved calendar with the planned e-learning the first week of spring break. Based on staff and parent feedback, a few changes will be made compared to fall break. All lessons for the entire week will be posted to Google Classroom by 4:00 PM on Thursday, March 11th. Assignments will be due by 4:00 PM on Friday, March 26th. Late assignments will not be accepted. Since Spring Break is two weeks, students have sufficient time to complete the five (5) days of assignments and enjoy a break from school.

### **Sunman-Dearborn Online Academy (S-DOA)**

If interest is sufficient, we will continue S-DOA into next school year and future school years. An email will be sent out the last week of February with an updated Student/Parent Handbook as well as a survey for parents to gauge continued interest. We are excited about the future plans of S-DOA including more live instruction at the 6-12 grade levels, exclusive social outings and field trips for S-DOA students, and networking opportunities for S-DOA parents. Please take a moment to review the promotional video linked below.

### **[Sunman-Dearborn Online Academy Promotional Video](#)**

Thank you for your continued support of our schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'A'.

Andrew Jackson  
Superintendent