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September 11, 2020

Dear Sunman-Dearborn Community School Corporation Parents:

It is hard to believe we have been in school for nearly six (6) weeks with only a few disruptions due to COVID-19. Our day-to-day routines have certainly changed, but much has stayed the same including quality instruction, and great participation in our extra-curricular activities.

None of this would be possible without the hard work of our dedicated employees, and the cooperation of our parents, students, and families. Thank you for all you are doing and for your support this year.

Please take a moment to read through some important updates:

E-Learning

Our staff is prepared to provide e-learning throughout the school year as needed. E-Learning can be separated into three categories; Planned E-Learning, Inclement Weather E-Learning, and Extended Closure E-Learning. I would like to take a moment to describe how teaching and learning will occur during each of these three types of e-learning. As a reminder, there are no e-learning days for S-DOA students. Please go to www.sdoa.us to review the S-DOA school calendar.

Planned E-Learning

We have Planned E-Learning the week of October 5-9, and the week of March 15-19. Since these weeks were originally planned to be breaks in our school year, we are setting expectations to allow for students and staff to travel with families, and still complete the work for credit.

For the week of October 5-9, all assignments for the week will be posted to Google Classroom by 9:00 AM on Friday, September 25th. Assignments will be due by 4:00 PM on Friday, October 16th. This will allow all students three full weeks to complete the work; the week before Fall Break, the week of Fall Break, and the week after Fall Break.

For the week of March 15-19, we will have a similar plan in place. The plan may change based on feedback from the week of October 5-9. More information regarding the week of March 15-19 will be coming at a later time.

Chromebooks and chargers will be sent home for students in grade K-5. Students in grades 6-12 will take their Chromebooks home as usual.

To accommodate students and families, instructional lessons will be recorded and posted to allow students to watch on their schedule.

Inclement Weather E-Learning

E-Learning will take place on inclement weather days, more commonly known as Snow Days. For students in grades K-5, fully-charged Chromebooks will be sent home when inclement weather is imminent. The Chromebooks will be able to be used for up to three (3) hours per day for up to two (2) consecutive days. K-5 lessons in Language Arts, Reading, and Math will be posted by 9:00 AM in Google Classroom.

For students in grades 6-12, lessons will be posted for each class. Each lesson will be approximately thirty (30) minutes in length.

If inclement weather requires school to be closed for more than two (2) consecutive days, the additional days will NOT be e-learning and will be added to the end of the calendar instead.

Extended Closure E-Learning

If we are required to close school for an extended period of time, we will move to e-learning for all students. For students in grades K-5, Chromebooks and chargers will be sent home.

E-Learning will take place three (3) days per week. The other two (2) days will be added to the end of the calendar. The majority of the lessons will be live instruction. The lessons will be recorded for students to watch at a later time if extenuating circumstances do not allow the student to watch live, or if a student needs to review. More information will be coming regarding Extended Closure E-Learning if we are required to close for an extended period of time.

Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences

Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for after school on Thursday, October 1st, at our elementary schools and middle schools, and the morning of Friday, October 2nd, at the elementary schools. Parents will have the opportunity to connect with their child's teacher(s) via Google Meet or by telephone. More information will be coming from your child's school in the upcoming weeks on how to register for a conference.

School Breakfast and Lunch Update

Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools is pleased to announce that the USDA has approved a nationwide waiver due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic allowing **ALL** students regardless of socioeconomic status, to receive **FREE** breakfast and lunch at school. We start this program effective Monday September 14, 2020. According to the USDA, this program will continue until December 31, 2020 or until funding runs out.

More information will be coming from Cheryl Erhart, Director of Food Services, later today regarding this program.

It is great to be back in school. I visited each elementary school this week. Students and staff are adjusting to the new procedures and protocols. It is obvious there is quality teaching and learning taking place. I am proud of our efforts. 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, prominent initial "A".

Andrew Jackson
Superintendent