



District News Briefs

April 2020 Special Edition: Preparing for Remote Learning

Expect Respect

For additional information, please contact Supt. Barb Rains, Ed.D. at 815.469.9103

Dear District 161 Families -

As you may be aware, the Governor has extended Illinois' stay-at-home order and the suspension of in-person learning until April 30. The earliest return date would then be May 1. Our school buildings may be closed but please know that we are still learning!

During Spring Break our teachers have been taking advantage of optional training opportunities -- *PD in your PJs* -- via video conferencing (Zoom) hosted by our Coordinators of Instruction. Each grade level had the opportunity to remotely collaborate on Monday, March 30 and Tuesday, March 31. Teachers were able to receive answers to their questions as they continue to explore ways to roll out remote learning. On Wednesday, April 1, several video conferences will feature remote learning tools – all in preparation for April 6 which is our first day of remote learning.

Our remote learning plan will ensure that teachers and support staff are available electronically during normal school hours to support student learning. Please know that our plan meets all the requirements set for by the Illinois State Board of Education. Our plan is flexible and will be revisited as needed based on guidance from ISBE. The plan provides students with instruction and access to educators.

During remote learning days, new content will be introduced by your child's teacher with the caveat that learning will be student-paced each week with respect to the needs of families. (As an aside, remote learning days count as student attendance days and do not need to be made up, just like Act of God days.)

- There is no expectation that students will be on their device with their teacher from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. daily.
- During that timeframe, teachers may be checking in with students and/or be providing feedback on activities that have been assigned on the teacher's web page.
- We will remain flexible in terms of assessing learning. During this state of emergency, our focus is on developing skills and providing formative feedback from the teacher.

All schools will generally utilize the following guidance:

- 8:30 a.m. - Each Monday teachers post activities for the week on Teacher Pages
- 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Teacher and student interaction as needed during this time frame to provide feedback, instruction, and/or support. (While not online continuously, teachers will monitor digital learning spaces i.e. Office 365, etc., and will e-mail families as needed.)

In terms of support for students who are eligible for special education and related services under IDEA, the District is providing on-going educational and related services. Please continue to check staff webpages and email communications for educational resources. The district will continue to host annual IEP review meetings via phone conference as well as re-evaluations that have been deemed completed. For those evaluations where face-to-face assessments were not completed, they will be delayed until further notice. Case managers and/or school psychologists will contact families for scheduling meetings that were previously arranged during the emergency closure.

We are planning a second opportunity for parent pickup of their student's tablet and charger on **Friday, April 3** between **1 p.m. - 5 p.m.** The e-blast will be sent to parents at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1.

April 1 Special Board meeting can be accessed via live video streaming

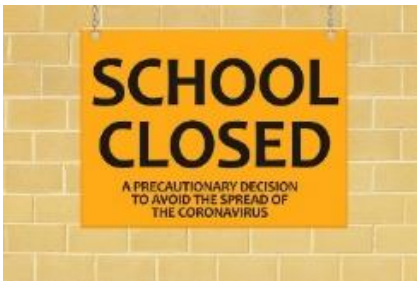
Board Members will be participating remotely during the April 1 Special Meeting at 7 p.m. No one will be at the District Administrative Center. For those wishing to attend remotely, the Board meeting will be streamed live via Livestream for the community to hear:

<https://livestream.com/shsd161/events/9059359>

The district logo and splash screen will be displayed. Listeners will be hearing the meeting in real time. Please be aware that, just like live TV broadcast, there is a 5-10 second delay from what is spoken to what is broadcasted. All public comments can be emailed to the Superintendent at brains@summithill.org. The comments will then be relayed to the Board President during the meeting. Additionally, the audio of this meeting will be recorded and uploaded to the website.

March/April calendar:

March 30 - April 3.....Spring Break
April 6.....Remote Learning begins
April 10 & 13..... Spring Holiday
April 15.....Board of Education meeting
April 30..... Gov. Pritzker’s suspension of in-person learning end date



Thank you for helping keep our students, staff, and families safe!