



Sachem Central School District

Kenneth E. Graham, Superintendent of Schools | kgraham@sachem.edu

March 24, 2020

Dear Sachem Students & Families,

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we deal with a constantly changing situation with so many unknowns. The Board of Education, Sachem Central Teachers' Association, Sachem Administrators' Association and the District Administration have been working collaboratively to finalize our plans for distance learning. As of today, we are scheduled to reopen on April 1st. However, this may likely change. Any changes will come through an Executive Order by the Governor, and we will communicate this information to all of you once we learn of them.

Below is an overview of the district's plans for distance learning.

- Calendar:

As previously communicated, we are approaching the weeks of 3/16 and 3/23 as a combination of snow days, staff conference days, and vacation days for all.

During these times we made online resources available to students and families who were looking to continue the learning, reviewing, and enrichment process during this school closure. These resources are still available to all at www.sachem.edu.

- Lessons: - Additional information will be sent out from teachers and the Office of Curriculum and Instruction.

Each teacher will deliver 1 lesson per day for all students in their classes. Distance learning will begin on March 30th.

- 3/30-4/6 – Six review lessons to allow students to adjust to getting back to instruction and to provide an opportunity for all to adapt to online lessons
- 4/7 and forward – the delivery of new instructional materials will begin and continue throughout the year

Secondary (Grades 6-12) – Students can expect 1 lesson per day for each class

Elementary (K-5) – Students can expect 1 lesson per day for reading and math

Elementary (K-5) for Specials – Students can expect 1 lesson per week

There will not be a set time for students to logon and complete the work. This will provide an opportunity for families with more than one child and only one or two computers to create a schedule to allow all children to complete the activities each day.

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Lessons will be shared with students either through a calendar for the week on Monday morning, or daily posts before 9am. The distance learning assignments will be delivered to students through a variety of district communication tools (Google, Remind, other web resources). Each teacher will reach out to students and parents to share the platform that they will use for their classes.

- Communication Guidelines:

Teachers will respond to students and families within 24 hours of receiving communication from them during the school week.

All students/families will receive an email from each teacher no later than noon on Monday 3/30 to re-establish a connection with each class. This email will be in addition to the other classroom platforms for communication that they may be using.

We have already reached out to anyone who needs a device to reach the Internet. In addition, information will be available for resources for free Internet access during this situation.

- Special Education:

Special Education classes and services will follow the same model. The services will be delivered in a similar frequency and duration according to the IEP.

The Office of Special Education is working to reschedule any CSE and annual meetings that were canceled as a result of the closure. The district is exploring the potential to do remote meetings. The Office of Special Education will be in contact with those families who are impacted.

- Grades:

Secondary classes (Grades 6-12), may require the submission of up to two student assignments per week. We will be mindful of the amount of work being assigned to our students as we all adjust to distance learning. Due to the nature of elementary assignments, elementary work will not be graded at this time. Our focus is the acquisition of skills and content at this level.

The middle school and high school 3rd quarter will end on April 15th. Third quarter grades will be comprised of both work that was collected and graded prior to the closures and new work completed remotely. Third quarter grades will be a numerical grade.

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More information will follow regarding grades for the fourth quarter and the final elementary trimester. Decisions about these items will depend on the duration of the closures. We will communicate with you once we have more information.

The College Board has announced changes to the AP Exams. They have shifted to an online test schedule for this year's exams. More information including the topics that will be included on the exams may be found at:

<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/coronavirus-updates>. AP teachers will have more information to share with their students.

We do not have any new information on the June Regents Exams. As soon as we learn more, we will communicate that with you.

- Additional Updates:

Senior Scholarship Information is available online. Please have seniors contact their guidance counselor for more information.

We are working with the vendors from the canceled Senior Trip and the Frost Valley trip. More information will follow.

Grab N Go Lunch and breakfast continues to be prepared and distributed at the following locations: Lynwood, Chippewa, Hiawatha and Grundy. Distribution is taking place between the hours of 11:00am-1:00pm, Monday-Friday. Thank you to all of you who are volunteering to help distribute meals.

SCOPE will be offering emergency childcare targeted toward children of health care workers, first responders, and other individuals who may be required to work during this time. More information can be found on our website.

I'm sure that you can see that the efforts to coordinate these activities take a tremendous amount of collaboration, and we thank all of you for your patience and support through these challenging times. We Are Sachem!

Sincerely,

Laura Slattery
Board of Education
President

Phillip Barbera,
President Sachem
Teachers'
Association

Matt Wells, President
Sachem Administrators'
Association

Kenneth E. Graham,
Superintendent of
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