

South Fork School District 14

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Home of the Ponies

Chris Clark, *Superintendent*

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4/1/2020

Dear South Fork Community,

I want to start by giving a shout out to the South Fork teachers, administrators, and kitchen crew. Teachers and administrators have done a fantastic job engaging students in the learning process during the past couple of weeks. The kitchen crew has been essential in making sure every child or senior who needs or wants a meal is offered that chance. Thank you all for your genuinely heroic efforts during these difficult times.

With the announcement yesterday that the stay at home order will be extended, South Fork School District #14 doors will be closed through the month of April. The state also announced a shift in the way schools are operating during this closure. Previously, these days were considered “Act of God”. Now, the days will actually be attendance days via remote learning. I will get to what this actually means for both the parent and student later in the letter.

With all the changes, anxiety, and stress happening in the lives of everyone during these unprecedented times, we want you to know South Fork School District is here for you. We understand learning can and should take a back seat to more pressing needs in the current climate. The main focus for everyone is to stay safe and healthy. Eating a balanced diet can help accomplish this need. South Fork is here for that. We have daily meal service, both pickup, and delivery options, through our High School cafeteria.

Social and emotional needs are also critical during these times. Reach out to people you trust and care for. These are the people that get you through hard times. South Fork teachers, administrators, and staff members are here for you in this capacity as well. Connect with us to help, we care for you as a person as well as a student.

Lastly, let us get back to the change in the school day. Big picture, the change has little effect on you, the student, and parent. Leadership Teams have been hard at work, developing the remote learning plan for our district. This plan should be

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available on our website once it is complete. Since South Fork teachers were proactive and implemented e-learning during the last two weeks of closure, education moving forward will look very similar to that. The significant change will be accountability for the learner. While grades that were previously earned will not be negatively affected, students will earn completeness grades moving forward. Students will be accountable for the completion of the task assigned, or an incomplete grade will be issued. If your child is in need of any resources or is having technology difficulty, remember to use the ehelp@southforkschools.com email to connect with our staff. We will be able to answer and address your needs in a timely manner.

Parents, please encourage your child to engage in the learning process. Monitor what they are doing and have conversations about learning with them. Use the resources provided to add to the learning experience for your child. Create daily routines with them to try to keep everything as normal as possible during shaky times. Using these strategies will help with the social and emotional needs of your child as well.

In conclusion, make sure we all are taking care of both our minds and our bodies. Take time to appreciate all the good things and people we have in our lives. Use the community resources available to us to help us when we need it. While the norm of school has changed, people's strength to overcome obstacles has not. We need to challenge ourselves to be a better person every day. With that mindset and power, we will come out of all this better than we enter it.

Educationally Yours,

Chris Clark
SF Superintendent

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