



April 29, 2020

SLPS Parents and Guardians:

These past two months of living through the coronavirus pandemic has demonstrated how the St. Louis region can come together on “staying apart” and how well we can work within the guidelines to help others.

We thank all of our parents for helping to support the District’s Virtual Learning Plan launched April 6. Before this all started, most of us would have said that a conversion to virtual learning for 22,000 students in a matter of weeks would have been impossible. Yet, we are doing it. We are not perfect, and it has not been easy, but what administrators, teachers and families across the District have done is nothing short of amazing.



We will continue to work to help our families stay strong and stay connected, as we work to closeout this very unusual school year. Here are some important updates:

New Academic Materials:

Along with assignments from your child’s teacher(s), SLPS will continue to provide continuous learning materials online at www.slps.org/keeponlearning and printed packets at our meal distribution sites (www.slps.org/meals) every Friday. Materials for April 27 – May 8 have been uploaded and are ready for you to access.

Community Visioning:

We now have the final reports from our series of community visioning workshops held between Feb. 29 and March 12. We encourage families to review the findings and feedback at www.slps.org/workshops.

A special thanks to Emerging Wisdom, Rebecca Bennett and Jessica Perkins and their team for the great work done in facilitating the meetings, gathering data and pulling our community together around the need for a shared vision of the future of education in St. Louis.



Year-end Preparation and 2020-2021 Calendar:

The last day of student attendance for the 2019-2020 school year is May 21, 2020. At its work session April 28, the Board of Education approved a calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. The first day of school will be Monday, August 24. A virtual summer school for high school students will be July 6-31. Summer school for elementary and middle school students is scheduled for August 3-14. Depending on guidance from the St. Louis City Health Department, this may be in schools, virtual or a hybrid. The last day of the 2020-2021 school year for students will be June 3. Final day for staff is June 4.

Grading:

In keeping with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE's) guidelines, the switch to virtual learning for the 4th quarter will not negatively impact students' grades, which were, in effect, frozen after 3rd quarter. However, it is important to remind your student that this virtual opportunity means they have time to boost their grades. The expectation is that ALL students show they are making an effort to learn virtually.

Technology:

The District has completed more than 14,000 technology survey requests. Thank you for your participation and assistance to get iPads and/or hot spots to our students for virtual learning.

Going forward, the survey will now be handled through your building principal. If you are still in need of technology, call the main phone number for your school, and your principal will complete and submit the survey for you.



Graduation:

For the past few weeks, the District has been researching plans for a traditional graduation for our Class of 2020 graduates. Plans are fluid, due to the uncertainty of the timeline for safely returning to group gatherings, but the intent is to have an atypical, yet traditional, ceremony for our graduates in late July or early August. In addition, some schools are interested in virtual celebrations to commemorate the May graduation season. The start of school year 2020-2021 will likely be the time we celebrate students transitioning from 5th to 6th grade and 8th to 9th grade.

How to Access Resources:

Please regularly visit our website www.slps.org where we have amassed information and services in support of your student and family. We are fortunate to have wonderful partners, including the [SLPS Foundation](#), to help see us through these trying times.

If you need to reach your principal, please call your school's main number. This line forwards to the principal and is answered during business hours.

For general questions for the District, call 314-437-8430. For emotional support, call 314-345-6900 or email studentservices@slps.org. Other questions can be submitted online through [Let's Talk](#). We appreciate all you are doing to support our efforts. Please, stay safe, stay home, and stay connected.



Upcoming Events:

- **Mayor Lyda Krewson's Kids Town Hall on the Coronavirus:** The Town Hall will be streamed on Thursday, April 30 at 10:30am at facebook.com/lydastl.
- **6th Annual Move Your Body Virtual Flash Mob:** Get up and get active by participating in this event Friday, May 1 at 9:45am at facebook.com/events/1951456324998405. Learn the dances and must-know information [HERE](#).

Helpful Tips:

- Develop a "home classroom" routine or schedule to help give your student some sense of normalcy and stability.
- Teachers are reaching out to all students. Help your student stay in contact with his or her teacher.
- Limit television and social media because some students may become overwhelmed by the messages surrounding COVID-19.
- Be a role model for your student, and practice good handwashing skills, social distancing and the use of masks and protective gloves when you leave home.

*** The District is reaching out to families in a variety of ways. If you have not heard from the District directly, then we cannot find you. Please check in with your school principal or a teacher today. It is very important, particularly now, that we have a working phone number or email for you.**