

What is the current reality of SVUSD amid the Coronavirus?

Things are changing day by day, as you have experienced. We are trying to keep as many services going as required and possible in these different conditions. The current Shelter in Place mandated by Sonoma County is defining our work right now. Remote learning and food service are considered essential services, and so we will continue to provide those. We will be serving lunches to students who qualify and working with students with special needs to meet the varied needs of every situation. SVUSD will communicate several times a week as will your students' school principal and teacher.

Where can we get student lunches?

For those who qualify for student lunches, pick up service will be available at Altimira Middle School, Sassarini Elementary, and Adele Harrison Middle School from 11 AM- 1 PM. Please have the student with you. It will be a grab and go set up at each school. Safety protocols such as social distancing will be enforced. All areas will be cleaned before and after food distribution.

How are students going to keep learning?

While there is no replacing our classrooms, teachers, and other staff, we are moving to an online platform. We understand this means a lot of change- from teachers learning and moving all instruction remotely to making sure all our students have fair access, including computers and Wi-Fi. We are making this dramatic shift one week at a time since we are working together in this new environment for the first time on March 23 (returning from Spring Break). We are taking instruction week by week as we transition.

We don't have a computer or Wi-Fi at home as of March 23, 2020. What do we do?

We are currently trying to figure out how many families are in need and define what type of assistance students need to move to online learning. We will be reaching out, trying to determine how many families need Wi-Fi and how many need a computer or Chromebook. Please share with us your current needs so we can work with the community to meet these needs. We are developing a process now to distribute the Chromebooks and Wi-Fi hotspots we currently have and will solve problems as they arise.

What about my elementary school-age student? What do I do with them every day?

Again, we know we can't replace our amazing daily experiences in our classrooms. To the best of our abilities, we are going to prepare materials that your child should be able to do themselves to keep them engaged and using their mind as we do at school. As you know, the attention span of children varies by age, so be gentle with yourself and with them as you create some type of schedule to do school work. A general rule of thumb is their age plus 5- 10 minutes is probably the length of time to engage each student in work. They will need breaks- like a walk around the block, dancing to a song, or helping around the house. Reading, singing, storytelling, crafts- these can all be very age-appropriate learning activities to engage in with students.

Teachers are returning from break on Monday, March 23, and we will be in touch this week (March 23- March 27) to get more details to families. In addition to learning links on our remote

learning page, paper packets are available online and at pick up locations (see food distribution) to keep students engaged. We will move online more each week for instruction. Likewise, communications and work will be made available through the internet.

What about my middle or high schooler?

Every student will need a computer or their Chromebook and access to Wi-Fi. We need to learn as soon as possible who doesn't have that so we can fill those gaps. Please share that information with your school so we can address that fundamental issue. Explicit emails and communications from teachers, and the principal will have the specifics.

Teachers are returning from break on Monday, March 23, and we will be in touch this week (March 23- March 27) to get more details to families. Packets are available online and at pick up locations (see food distribution) to keep students engaged. We will move online more each week for instruction. Likewise, communications and work will be made available through the internet.

What about grades moving forward?

Several things about grading. First, right now, we don't know which homes have access to what tools, so we cannot mandate things that we don't know are possible. It will take this time to be able to use online resources across the district in a uniform manner, and that will look different, of course, by grade level. Once we solve that issue, we are also working under the direction of the State Superintendent regarding remote learning. Every home has very different conditions during our emergency. We have to create space that allows for families to get through these times without penalizing students. In a webinar conference last week, the CDE stated that all assessment should be to inform instruction. They stressed that grading should not be about what the individual student is doing, but rather grading should be about how the class is doing as a whole so we can inform how we make decisions about instruction. It was repeated multiple times throughout the webinar that we have to attend to the issues of equity and access in our community as we move to distance learning for the next period of time.

What about state tests?

All state and federal testing have been suspended for the rest of this school year (they are done). Advanced Placement, however, will still take place at home and online. Details will follow, but it right now is determined to be a 45-minute online assessment.

What about senior activities?

So much happens in the senior year. Significant milestones like prom, graduation, and necessary testing occurs in the spring. We have to prepare for all different scenarios. We must comply with all existing state and federal safety mandates, and they will affect what choices we have. We are giving ourselves as much time as possible to allow for returning to "normal" while also beginning to wrap our heads around what we might have to change to be safe. No decisions have been made yet.

My student is a special needs student, and I need to talk to someone specifically about where we are. What do I do?

Please reach out to your student caseworker, and if you don't have that information, then contact the school, and we will get you in touch with the right person. As staff returns from Spring Break, we are going to be reaching out by both phone and video conferencing to speak with Special Education parents, so we are all on the same page.

Where are the best internet sites to stay current?

[SVUSD Corona Virus](#)

[SVUSD Remote learning](#)

[Sonoma County Corona Virus](#)

[City of Sonoma Corona Virus](#)

[Center for Disease Control](#)