



**Somerset Public Schools**  
**Somerset Berkley Regional School District**  
*All Students Achieving Excellence*

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4/14/2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Every member of the Somerset and Somerset Berkley school community has been hard at work getting resources to you, making connections with you over the past two weeks, and planning our next steps to support you and your children during this school closure.

**We wanted to let you know that this week, you should be expecting a phone call from your son/daughter's team. We wanted to give you notice because we understand that many of us do not always answer unknown numbers. This phone call will be important for us to have a two-way conversation to develop a communication plan moving forward and discuss our special education remote service plans. Please expect this call over the next few days.**

Last week we began gearing up for this longer term closure by having a Chromebook pick-up. If you were unable to pick up a Chromebook and have technology needs, please contact your son/daughter's principal. Please see Commissioner Riley's letter to families, which is posted on the District website; as well as the Special Education FAQ's that were sent home last week and linked on the site as well. This will provide some information and guidance that we have referenced to guide our planning. In the coming week, we will also be sending a letter from DESE with some parent information and a parent portal link with some recommended supports to assist you and your children.

Your child's teacher will be providing a schedule of Remote Learning from May 4, 2020 until we return to school; this date has not yet been set. Your son/daughter's special education teacher and/or other team members will be checking in to review how that schedule is working for children and providing additional accommodations or resources as needed. The schedule can include various resources and a variety of services such as:

- 1. Live Sessions** - Specific times to be 'live' with members of their classroom team. This may be a morning meeting or a live lesson. This may include the classroom teacher, an assistant teacher, a counselor, a specialist or a therapist. This is known as 'synchronous' learning. The staff member and the student(s) are in the class at the same time (in sync). This may include sharing a screen to review material, engaging in a discussion, participating in a lesson, reviewing material or learning about something new.
- 2. Prepared Session** - Classwork that can be completed online (or hard copy if requested) that has been prepared by the classroom team. Your child can do this at a time that is good for them. This may be a recorded video, a lesson in Google Classroom, Class Dojo or another platform. There will be expectations

for students to engage in this learning according to a timeline. Some work for students may need to be submitted and reviewed. Classroom staff would then provide feedback to the students.

**3. Intervention and Therapy** - Resources, strategies and intervention will be included in your child's learning as designed by therapists, counselors, reading specialists and others who will continue to provide materials to support your child's access to Remote Learning.

**4. Self-Directed Learning** - Your child will have access to additional learning and enrichment activities to keep their mind active during this time. This may include a 'menu' of activities such as virtual field trips, classroom challenges, mindfulness strategies, physical exercise, videos to review, and many more. Your child can also use their time to explore topics they are curious about.

**5. Office Hours/Communication** - Special Education Staff and other team members will be providing ongoing support and communication to work through this time together. You can expect 1-2 check-ins per week. Please work with your son/daughter's team to discuss times and methods of communication that will be most meaningful for your family. There will be specific days and times when classroom teams are available to return calls or emails.

Again, we want to thank you for your ongoing support and understanding! We hope you and your family continue to be healthy and safe. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can assist or support you in any way. We are a big family and together we will get through this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Megan Ashton  
Special Education Director