

Somerset Public Schools

May 18, 2020

Dear Somerset Families,

Following Governor Baker's announcement that school buildings will not be opening for the rest of the year, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) released Phase 3 of its Remote Learning Guidance. Since Phase 1 of Remote Learning, the Somerset Public School Districts' Priorities continue to be:

1. The Social-Emotional well-being of our students, families, and educators.
2. A structured yet flexible remote learning framework that provides access to essential learning standards and an opportunity for deeper understanding.
3. Prevent academic regression during school closure.
4. A commitment to learning.

Based on DESE's updated May guidelines, our Remote Learning Guides will emphasize a focus on teaching content most critical for students' success in the next grade level referred to as *prerequisite content standards*. Many of the *prerequisite content standards* were taught prior to March, and a focus will now include new content as well as reinforcement and deeper learning of concepts.

While the material we will be offering will shift from previously learned skills to new content, you can still expect teachers to use a variety of strategies as described in our [Remote Learning Guides](#) such as:

- Hosting live or recorded lessons with morning meeting, small group instruction, or individual lessons.
- Regular educator office hours
- Meetings and communication with related service providers
- Communication between staff and students to "check in" or provide feedback on student work
- Optional group meetings such as virtual computer club.
- Counselor availability and support

We are all committed to working in partnership with families to ensure students stay engaged in their learning through this challenging time. With that said, it is expected that every student engages in the activities and lessons their teachers are delivering and posting to the best of their abilities and to the greatest extent possible. We understand that many students in Grades 3-5 have significantly more independence than students in grades PK-2. We ask that families do the best they can to support student participation in the Google Meets and Remote Learning activities. Our teachers are working collaboratively to develop meaningful lessons and activities, connect with students, and provide quality feedback so our students will be ready for the 2020-2021 school year. If you need help please contact your building principal.

To help us improve the remote learning experience, we invite you to complete the [Elementary Remote Learning Family Feedback Survey](#) by midnight on Friday, May 22, 2020. Your feedback is useful as we work every day to strengthen our practices.

Thank you for your continued support. Stay safe,

Elizabeth A. Haskell

Director of Curriculum & Assessment/Title I

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[Click here to watch Video Update from Elizabeth Haskell Director of Curriculum Somerset Public Schools/ SBRHS](#)

Updated Remote Learning Frequently Asked Questions May 2020

[Is participation in Remote Learning expected?](#)

Yes, it is expected that every student engages in the activities and lessons their teachers are delivering and posting to the best of their abilities and to the greatest extent possible. We understand that many students in Grades 3-5 have significantly more independence than students in grades PK-2. We ask that families do the best they can to support student participation in the Google Meets and Remote Learning activities. Although our buildings are closed, school is not over. Our teachers are working collaboratively to develop meaningful lessons and activities, connect with students and provide quality feedback so our students will be ready for the 2020-2021 school year. We are all committed to working in partnership with families to ensure students stay engaged in their learning through this challenging time. If you need help, please contact your building principal.

[Will My Child Be Ready For Next Year?](#)

With the announcement that school buildings will not be opening for the rest of this school year, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) released Phase 3 of its Remote Learning Guidance. Our Remote Learning Guides will emphasize a focus on teaching content most critical for students' success in the next grade level. Many of DESE's *prerequisite content standards* were taught prior to March, and a focus will now include new content as well as reinforcement and deeper learning of concepts. With the addition of new content, your child's teacher may be adding a more direct approach to instruction, such as lessons during meetings and/or more meetings with virtual instruction. With full participation in our Remote Learning, your child will be ready for the next grade level.

[How Will The Teacher Grade My Child?](#)

Trimester 2 ended at the same time that Remote Learning began. Trimester 3 report cards will include an evaluation of students' remote learning work. Beginning Monday, May 18th, teachers will use three criteria to assess students: **Work Completion, Work Submission, and Participation in live or recorded lessons**. The rubric is pictured below. Teachers will use a 3-2-1 scale on the Trimester 3 report card: **3 (Meeting Remote Learning Expectations), 2 (Approaching Remote Learning Expectations), or 1 (Not Meeting Remote Learning Expectations)**.

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Elementary Remote Learning Expectations Rubric (May 18-June 18)

Rubric Score	3	2	1
Remote Learning Expectations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work Completion• Work Submission (digitally) or Share Work with Teacher (meeting)• Attend Virtual Meetings (live or recorded)	Meeting Remote Learning Expectations <p>Consistently participates, completes and submits assignments. (51%-100%)</p>	Approaching Remote Learning Expectations <p>Inconsistently participates, completes and submits assignments. (26%-50%)</p>	Not Meeting Remote Learning Expectations <p>Minimally participates, completes, and submits assignments. (0-25%)</p>

The more your child participates, the more he/she will learn. Our weekly Remote Learning Guides are based on the prerequisite content standards provided by DESE. When students complete, submit, or share assignments with teachers, attend Google Meets or view recorded lessons, teachers can observe, assess, and provide feedback to help students grow as learners and prepare for next school year. Teachers will use a variety of strategies and gather information in different ways such as:

- Hosting synchronous (live) lessons with morning meeting or other form of checking in with students
- Synchronous small group meetings
- Regular educator office hours
- Meetings and communication with related service providers
- Communication between staff and students to "check in" or provide feedback on student work
- Optional group meetings such as book or newspaper club.
- Counselor availability and support

[How Do We Turn In My Child's Work?](#)

With the shift to teaching prerequisite content standards and to streamline work that may be collecting in folders and/or notebooks, we are encouraging families to submit work digitally via Google Classroom, or other teacher-specified digital programs (i.e., Class Dojo). This could include completed assignments, pictures of projects, or other teacher requested materials. Below are links for how to submit work through Google Classroom from your cell phones. If you have additional questions, please contact your child's teacher directly.

iPhone Users:

[iPhone users: how to scan a document and upload to Google Classroom](#)

Android Users:

Part 1: [Scanning A Document in Android.mp4](#)

Part 2: [Submitting A Scanned Assignment Using Android.mp4](#)

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How Do I Help My Child Participate in Remote Learning?

Family Guidelines for Remote Learning

*****Virtual meeting rules are the same as Somerset Public Schools' handbook rules.***** 

- No recording of any kind (audio, video, screenshots)  
- Microphones off unless talking  
- Chat feature is on-topic and only if microphone is not working 
- Attend meetings fully clothed in school-appropriate attire  