



February 7, 2022

Dear Parents:

I hope everyone survived our recent snow storm and are ready for what looks like the first full week of school in a while if the weather holds. Listed below are the updates for the week.

### **Asynchronous Days**

As you know, we have two asynchronous days left this school year and two planned each year in our upcoming school calendars. I understand that some parents do not like these days, so I wanted to share with you specifically why we have them. You can click [HERE](#) to listen to my comments on this topic or review the bullet points below.

- We are continually working to provide the best education possible for our students.
- To do that, we need on-going professional development for our staff.
- We used to be able to handle this by pulling out groups of teachers during the day, but we can no longer do this due to the substitute shortage.
- This leads us back to using a full day for staff professional development without students.
- Based on our state minimum hour requirements, we need these days to be counted as instructional days, as we would not meet the minimum hour requirement for preschool and half-day kindergarten.
- This leads to assigning asynchronous work on these days.
- These days are not a permanent addition to our calendar, but will be utilized as long as the abovementioned needs are still present.
- These days are producing long-term and sustainable improvements for SCS in reaching our shared goal to provide our children with an education that meets their needs.

### **Student Asynchronous Work for February 18th**

Continuing the comments from above, one way we are working to improve the student / parent experience with asynchronous days is evolving and coordinating our expectations for student work on this day. A committee of parents and staff has been working with me to create some great engaging options for students in all grades for our upcoming asynchronous day. We are hopeful that this has taken into consideration the challenges that have been shared from a parent / student perspective on past days. I will be sending out a message to all parents on expectations for this day by Friday (2/11) at the latest and we will also be providing an opportunity for your feedback on how we did after the 18th.

### **Blizzard Bags for Preschool / Half-Day Kindergarten**

Continuing on the theme, based on our calamity days thus far, we have exceeded our balance of ‘banked’ hours for preschool and half-day kindergarten. This means that students will have to complete blizzard bag work, which is the state’s fancy way of saying students will need to complete asynchronous work in lieu of making up this day in June, so that we can meet our minimum school hour requirement in these grade-levels. Your building principals and/or teachers will be communicating the required work with you this week. **Note.** *This is different work and in addition to any work assigned for our February 18th asynchronous day.*

### **Thank You!!!**

In my last update, I asked for your help in speaking with your children about appropriate communication with adults and in particular, communicating with me about snow days. I am happy to report that I received many well written apology emails from students and the emails advocating for snow days have completely stopped. Once again, thank you for your partnership!

### **REMINDER...State of the Schools - Save the Date / FAQs**

The annual “State of the Schools” presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, February 23rd at 6:30 PM. This year’s event will be held at Strongsville Middle School and will also be livestreamed on our [SCS TV website](#). We look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our District and all that makes Strongsville City Schools special. Do you have something you wish to be covered during our “State of the Schools” event? Click [HERE](#) to submit a topic/question - the most frequent comments and feedback will be addressed on February 23rd. This form will be open and accepting responses until Friday, February 11th at 5:00 PM.

### **REMINDER....COVID Dashboard**

Click [HERE](#) to access our COVID Dashboard via Google Slides or click [HERE](#) to access it via our website.

Have a great week!

Sincerely,



Dr. Cameron M. Ryba  
Superintendent

**District Student Fees for Students on Free/Reduced Lunch.** To determine eligibility for various additional state and federal program benefits, as well as possible district student fees being waived, an application must be completed online at PaySchoolsCentral.com. Click [HERE](#) for the application

instructions and click [HERE](#) to access the online application.

**Past Parent Updates.** If you are trying to find information that I shared in previous parent updates, you can click [HERE](#) to access all updates that are linked on our District website.

**SCS Text Message Opt-In.** If you would like to receive these and other text messages from the District alerting you of important updates, opt-in by texting ‘Y’ to 67587.

**Updated Quarantine Procedures.** Click [HERE](#) to access my parent update on October 27th detailing the new Mask to Stay / Test to Play quarantine options and click [HERE](#) to access our *SCS Operating Procedures* and review Slides 23-25 for the specifics.