



MARCH 16, 2020

Sandy Valley Local Schools

FAQ Regarding the COVID-19/Coronavirus

The health of our students, families, and staff is of the utmost concern. The district has been taking steps to minimize exposure and prepare for closures by following guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Ohio Department of Health, County Health Departments, and the Ohio Department of Education. ******As this is a rapidly changing situation, we will continue to respond to the guidance and directives of the above-stated organizations.******

Will schools be closing/when will classes resume?

Educating students is our top priority; however, the health and safety of our students and school community is always first. Governor DeWine has closed schools in Ohio through at least April 3, so school will resume no earlier than Monday, April 6. Sandy Valley has a scheduled Spring Break from March 23-27 and we will continue that week as Spring Break. Following directives of state and local officials, the district plans to assess the situation and will make announcements periodically.

Will any Sandy Valley buildings be open to the public?

NO. However, the administration building will remain open for extenuating circumstances to contact via phone 330-866-3339 between the hours of 7:30-3:30.

Are there any other related district/school event cancellations at this time?

Beginning Saturday, March 14, the following cancellations and restrictions are in place until further notice:

- No visitors or volunteers are permitted in schools
- No after-school activities, which includes all athletic practices and games, student performances and rehearsals, banquets and assemblies, and any clubs or activities
- No field trips or out-of-state field trips
- Kindergarten Registration has been tentatively rescheduled for April 23

What will be done for students with required forms due for college admissions, scholarships, or College Credit Plus?

The HS Counseling Office will be working remotely. Please go to the counseling page for more information <http://tinyurl.com/SVguidance>.

What about College Credit Plus (CCP)?

According to our college partners, face to face CCP classes will be held online starting March 16. Please email Mr. Trenger at d.trenger@svlocal.org if you are having any difficulties.

Is Sandy Valley's scheduled spring break still happening?

Spring break will still be observed from March 21-March 29.

Will our athletes still practice and compete?

The district is following the guidance of the OHSAA which states for all sports A MANDATORY, no-contact period is in effect for all school-sponsored sports March 16 - April 5, 2020. Additionally, there will be a mandatory shut down of facilities used for the purpose of conducting athletic activities from March 16-April 5, 2020. We will share additional guidance as it becomes available.

Will music performances continue?

All OMEA state-level competitions have been canceled for the year. Any remaining school performances are postponed until further notice.

Will free breakfast and/or lunch be provided for students during this time?

We know this is a need, and feeding children is a priority to us at Sandy Valley. Sandy Valley will follow the guidance from the Ohio Department of Education. Sandy Valley will be distributing three breakfasts and three lunches from SV school busses to eight outside locations on Wednesday, March 18th, and Wednesday, March 25, from 11-12 p.m. These breakfasts and lunches are available to ALL CHILDREN ages 0-18. These breakfasts and lunches are for ANY and ALL children from ANY school or district. The eight GRAB and GO locations are as follows:

Sandyville Post Office, East Sparta Post Office, Sandy Valley Library parking lot, Sandy Valley Estates pavilion, Magnolia Post Office, St. James parking lot, Waynesburg Post Office and the corner of Elmfort and Goodland.

Sandy Valley will be distributing once weekly to limit the amount of community spread. Students were sent home with food this past Friday, so our decision to give three days worth of food midweek will help ease the stress for ALL families during this difficult time. Please click this link to all of the local food pantries and places that serve free hot meals.

Parent FAQ on COVID-19 Remote Learning

The following FAQ has been developed to help answer questions regarding remote learning and other school-related topics. Sandy Valley will continue to add to this list and communicate information as it becomes available.

The intention of remote learning at home is to have students continue with meaningful work which aligns with our current curriculum. It is not the intent to match the length of assignments to a typical class period.

What is “remote learning”?

These are unprecedented times, please know that the Sandy Valley staff is preparing for alternative educational settings. Remote learning may look different from grade level to grade level, house to house. To that end, staff will make every attempt to ensure learning continues by providing students with activities ranging from at-home paper and pencil assignments to comprehensive online curriculum.

What is our “remote learning” plan?

Through the week of March 16-20 and the week of March 30-April 3, we recommend students work on enrichment activities. In the meantime, our K-12 teachers are preparing for remote learning that moves beyond these enrichment activities.

How can I get free internet access if I don't already have it at home?

The district will provide information about where internet access is located outside of our buildings. Additionally, Comcast is offering 60 days of free internet for low-income families. To sign up, applicants can visit www.internetessentials.com to apply. Charter Communications is offering free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a subscription. Those interested in enrolling are asked to call 1-844-488-8395 to begin the process. Installation fees will be waived for new student households. Hopefully, this program may provide some assistance during this time.

Do we know if State testing will be delayed?

ODE has not issued any information about state testing being delayed. Sandy Valley has links to state testing practice tests on the SV website.

When will the third nine weeks end? Will students receive a report card?

The third nine weeks marking period will still end on Friday, March 20th. Grades will be adjusted and staff will be flexible with missing assignments. Grades will be finalized by the end of March. Due to the closure, report cards will be delayed but parents can view grades via the Home Access Center.

This global health event impacts us all. It requires us to take careful precautions and to follow the advice provided by public health experts. While this message outlines steps being taken by the district, we would like to remind parents that they have full discretion to make decisions regarding their children. We will continue to provide information as this situation develops.

This situation continues to evolve and change, and we are staying current with developments so we can plan and act appropriately to protect our community to the greatest extent possible. We recognize that these actions will cause disruption in planned routines and activities. However, this is an extraordinary situation requiring us to adapt and operate in unique ways. Thank you for your cooperation during this challenging time.

More information on the COVID-19/Coronavirus is available at the following links:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>

Ohio Department of Health: <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/Novel-Coronavirus/Resources-for-the-Public/>

Stark County Health Department: [https://www.starkcountyohio.gov/public-health/coronavirus-updates?ext=.](https://www.starkcountyohio.gov/public-health/coronavirus-updates?ext=)

Tuscarawas County Health Department: <http://www.tchdnow.org/covid-19.html>

Carroll County Health Department: <https://www.carroll-lhd.org/>

Ohio Department of Education FAQ: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Coronavirus-COVID-19-FREQUENTLY-ASKED-QUESTION-1>

Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Hotline 1-833-4-ASK-ODH Open Seven Days a Week from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and at www.coronavirus.ohio.gov

We want to thank you for your continued support of Sandy Valley Local Schools. Please understand that we will continue to communicate with you as we move forward.