



SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

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April 2, 2020

Dear Parents or Legal Guardians,

I would like to continue to thank our parents and students for working in collaboration with Sumter School District to ensure our students receive the educational tools they need to progress during this time of school closures. Numerous questions have been posed regarding the status of grading for the remainder of the year. The correspondence below will provide some clarification.

According to the South Carolina Department of Education:

- The remote learning work that our hardworking teachers and administrators continue to put together for students WILL count. We encourage students and parents to relax and do their best.
- Students will receive a combined third and fourth quarter numeric grade aligned to the state's Uniform Grading Policy. Grades currently stored for the third quarter should be considered as interim reporting. This promotes equity across schools for scholarship consideration and was done in consultation with the governing bodies for the state's higher education institutions.
- End-of-year state assessments WILL NOT be administered this school year. Teachers can focus on instruction, and students can focus on learning. International Baccalaureate exams are cancelled; however teachers will still have to submit internal assessment components. Advanced Placement exams will be administered, and a schedule will come out by April 3.
- High school seniors will receive their high school diplomas. Every effort is being made to ensure that these students have the opportunity and adequate period of time to earn the necessary credits for on-time graduation. The period of time for senior course completion, demonstration of mastery, and course remediation must be finalized by May 15.

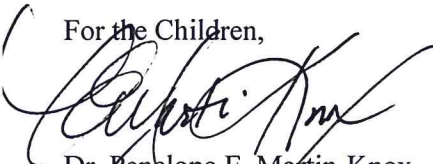
While we continue to navigate the process for online learning, I would like to take this opportunity to remind our students about the importance of taking ownership of their learning. While all work should be submitted, it is most important that students submit their own work. Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty, in short, cheating. This can take many forms:

- Turning in an assignment written by someone else, in whole or part, including papers downloaded from the Internet.
- Copying the writing of another student or source material, in large or small parts, without using proper documentation.
- Summarizing or paraphrasing the ideas of information of another writer without giving adequate documentation.

Please understand, as we work through the challenges that exist, we will continue to move forward and adjust as needed. We know there are concerns regarding the status of commencement ceremonies. We also recognize this is a momentous life event and accomplishment for our students, and we will provide more information once it becomes available.

Again, as we continue to refine our practices and continue to ensure we are meeting the needs of our students and our community, we thank you for your patience, flexibility, and feedback. Together Sumter: Every School, Every Student, Every Day! We are #SumterStrong.

For the Children,


Dr. Penelope E. Martin-Knox
Superintendent

Vision - Sumter School District will educate all students to embrace diversity, act responsibly, and contribute positively in a competitive, global society.

Mission - The mission of Sumter School District is to equip students to be responsible, successful, and productive citizens in a global society.

Sumter School District is an equal opportunity employer.