

# Shrewsbury Borough School

20 Obre Place  
Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702

Brent A. MacConnell  
SUPERINTENDENT

(732)747-0882  
fax: (732)747-7510

April 3, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope that this update from SBS finds you healthy and safe during these uncertain times. I think it's important for you to know that we understand how difficult this time is for our students, families, employees, and community members as we all deal with challenges that were never anticipated during this global pandemic. Our virtual, home instruction model has been in place for three weeks at this point and we continue to develop and improve the student engagement and the delivery of meaningful curriculum and content at every grade level and in every content area each day. I'm so very proud of our faculty and staff as their commitment to our students and school community has been remarkable.

It is important to remember that what we are currently providing for each of our students is not the same as what we offer each day when students are here in our classrooms. With limited time to prepare, very little guidance from the NJDOE and county education office, we are engaged in a process of discovering what works best and what is realistic given these difficult circumstances. There is nothing normal about any of this, but please know that all of our teachers are working extremely hard to plan and implement instruction in a manner that they never anticipated.

I plan to send out a weekly correspondence so that parents are informed of any new information related to the district or to broader changes that affect our school.

Please see important information below:

- The current Marking Period 3 will close on April 7th and grades will be available on the Genesis Parent Portal after 3:00 PM. Given the very different nature of instruction, it is likely that changes will be made in our grading practices moving forward.
- Marking Period 4 student schedules will also be available through the Parent Portal on April 7th. Please check to make sure that your child has the correct Special Area assigned for Marking Period 4.

- The Honors & High Honors Program will be suspended for the rest of the academic year given the significant changes to instruction and assessment.
- Our teachers ask that students kindly submit their assignments directly to Google Classroom. Please do not send assignments to teachers through student Gmail accounts as they could be missed given the volume of email generated daily.
- Students and parents are reminded that Special Area teachers post assignments to their Google Classrooms regularly. Students should check these assignments and complete any work assigned to their section for Marking Period 3.
- The 6th Grade PEEC Trip currently scheduled for May 6th, 7th, and 8th is being rescheduled for next September. The tentative dates are September 14th through the 16th. More information will be available regarding class trips for Grades 7 and 8 soon. All elementary trips will likely be cancelled for the year but have not been canceled yet.
- SBS is open daily should you need any materials or personal possessions that you were not able to bring home when the school closed. Please contact me directly if you need assistance.

I am pleased to invite student volunteers to submit video recordings of the Pledge of Allegiance and the SBS PeaceBuilder Pledge for daily publication. Please follow this link, [Pledge of Allegiance & SBS PeaceBuilder Pledge](#), to sign up and to upload your video. These student videos will be published to Twitter, Facebook, and our new SBS Youtube Channel. I also will send these videos to our teachers to post in their Google Classrooms each day.

I want to thank the SPTG and Shrewsbury Foundation for Education for their continued support of our students and parent community. The FSE is accepting teacher grant proposals on a rolling basis to provide important teacher support which is truly appreciated.

Please see the important health information related to COVID-19 as attached. I have also included a copy of the SBS PeaceBuilders Pledge to assist our student volunteers.

Our faculty and staff are “here” to help you and your family at all times. We are partners with you, our parents, like never before and we need to continue to support each other through this challenging time. At some point, we will be able to open the doors again at SBS and get back to what we do best in-person every day.

I thank you for your support, your patience and understanding, your inspiration, and for your strong partnership now and in the future.

Please contact me at any time if I can assist you and your family.

Very sincerely,

Brent A. MacConnell  
Superintendent