

Southmoreland School District



Vincent A. Mascia
Superintendent
Middle School Office Complex
200 Scottie Way
Scottsdale, PA 15683
724-887-2005
Email: masciav@southmoreland.net

“High Quality Learning for All”

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Over the last several days, you have heard reports from the news media about the necessity for state and local officials, including school districts, to prepare for the potential spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). In an effort to ensure that our school district is prepared for such an event and to get a better understanding of the impact on our students, staff, and local community members, we are reviewing emergency plans. We are taking advantage of all resources that are available or will be available to assist us in this process. The coronavirus is transmitted like the common flu virus and can be eliminated with good cleaning and personal hygiene practices. We are currently in the flu season and our schools already follow the practice of standard cleaning procedures each day. Our health providers and product distributors offer assurances that those cleaning procedures will successfully kill the virus on contact surfaces.

Our school district will be implementing procedures to respond to reports of communicable illnesses, including the coronavirus. The Pennsylvania Department of Health issues guidance and direction to health care providers and schools during a potential outbreak situation. Our district works directly with these health agencies in order to keep our students, staff, and community safe. If we are notified of any confirmed cases of the coronavirus in our region, we will immediately provide guidance and information for distribution to families. Please monitor the District Webpage to get up-to-date information. We will also use the SchoolMessenger System to distribute notifications.

In the event schools must be closed to prevent the spread of the virus, the Southmoreland School District is developing contingency plans. The Pennsylvania Department of Education has provided guidance to public school districts in planning for possible closure. School districts can apply for Act 80 days, which count as instructional days. Snow make-up days can be utilized and school can be extended into the month of June. If the operation of school is impacted, decisions will be made in this regard and communicated with you as soon as possible.

Consideration is being given to provide instruction virtually, should school be closed for an extended period of time. You will be asked to complete a survey to learn of home capabilities for connecting to instruction virtually. Many students and parents have inquired of the status of upcoming scheduled events that may be impacted by school closure. The administration will be working with event and trip sponsors to review potential cancellations and the possible rescheduling of these events and trips, if they are impacted by a school closure.

The safety and well-being of our students, staff, and community is our top priority. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we work together during this time of uncertainty. Several resources are provided on the Southmoreland District Webpage, under the Health News tab, that will support you in talking with your families and addressing their concerns.

Respectfully,

Vincent Mascia

Vincent Mascia,
Superintendent of Schools