



Southmoreland Middle School SMS



DAY-TO-DAY PROCEDURES

Children two-years and older are required to wear a face-covering unless they have a medical or mental health condition or disability, documented in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA, that precludes the wearing of a face covering in school.

Given that children and adolescents may experience challenges in effectively adhering to these guidelines, it is critical that parents and staff set an excellent example for students by modeling social distancing behaviors, wearing a face-covering*** (**MASK or FACE SHIELD**), and practicing good hand hygiene.

Regardless of one's beliefs surrounding COVID-19, actions in our community will directly impact students returning to school. When these precautions are taken seriously, disease transmission is likely to decrease, positioning our school district to safely resume in-person instruction.

Students who do not follow the face-covering*** (**MASK of FACE SHIELD**) ORDER or the social distancing guidelines that have been implemented will be addressed accordingly by the Building Principal, Ms. Kuchar, and parents will be contacted. If students repeatedly require a replacement face-covering*** (**MASK or FACE SHIELD**), parents will be contacted. If issues persist with individual students, alternative measures will be put in place for the student.

These guidelines and recommendations may change frequently and abruptly, so please check back often.

Questions or concerns can be directed to the Middle School Building Principal, Ms. Kuchar at kuchart@southmoreland.net.

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ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

Bus Transportation - ALL students must wear a face-covering*** (**MASK or FACE SHIELD**) at all times. Students are to sit one person to a seat unless they are a family unit. **NOTE:** This is a change from last school year.

Students are expected to follow directives provided by the bus driver to ensure social distancing guidelines to the greatest extent possible. Students will NOT be permitted to board district transportation without a face-covering*** (**MASK or FACE SHIELD**).

Students will exit the bus one at a time, from front to back, to maximize social distancing guidelines to the greatest extent possible. **NOTE:** This is a change from last school year.

Personal Transportation - We must have an efficient parent/guardian pick-up and drop-off procedure; otherwise, we will resort to alternatives that will impact students and parent/guardian drop-off and pick-up times. At this time, we are anticipating higher than usual parent/guardian drop-off and pick-up. Thus, students must be prepared to exit the vehicle immediately upon approaching the drop off location (same as last school year). Students must wear a face-covering*** (**MASK or FACE SHIELD**) when exiting the vehicle.

Drop Off Route – Vehicles will be guided to the drop-off location (same as last school year). The parent/guardian will enter the school campus via the Chestnut Street entrance (same as last school year). After reaching the top of the hill, you will be directed to the left, then a quick right down through the faculty parking lots (same as last school year). The drop off location will be the crosswalk nearest the handicap parking spaces at the end of the parking lot (same as last school year). Students must have a face-covering*** (**MASK or FACE SHIELD**) on exiting the vehicle and other items, such as book bags, lunch bags, etc. After student drop-off, parent/guardian proceeds through the lower parking lot (same as last school year).

The parent/guardian will exit the parking lot via the Arthur Avenue exit. **NOTE:** This is a change from last school year.

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BUILDING ENTRANCE

Upon arriving at the SMS campus, students are reminded that a face-covering***
(**MASK or FACE SHIELD**) must be worn as you approach the building.

We learn more about COVID-19 every day, and as more information becomes available, the CDC will continue to update and share information, as our knowledge and understanding of COVID-19 evolves. However, based on the best available evidence at this time, the CDC **does not** currently recommend universal symptom screenings (screening all students grades K-12) be conducted by schools; therefore, we will **not be** conducting temperature screenings of all students. Parents or caregivers are strongly encouraged to monitor your child(ren) for infectious illness signs every day. Students who are sick should not attend school in-person.

Upon entering the building, students will either report to their designated homerooms or the cafeteria for breakfast (same as last school year). Students choosing to eat breakfast will be dismissed to their homerooms after eating (same as last school year).

Seats will be clearly marked where students may sit to ensure social distancing guidelines to the greatest extent possible. **NOTE:** This is a change from last school year.

Students need to be sure they take all items, such as utensils, straws, napkins, etc. on their first trip through the cafeteria line. We are making every effort to mitigate cross-contamination by eliminating multiple trips back and forth through the food line for forgotten items the first time through. **NOTE:** This is a change from last school year.

Upon completing breakfast, students will exit the cafeteria, throwing trash away in the garbage cans placed at the cafeteria doors' entrance/exit, following social distancing guidelines to the greatest extent possible. **NOTE:** This is a change from last school year.

Student lockers are not being utilized this year. Therefore, all student belongings will be carried with students throughout the school day in a drawstring or book bag. **NOTE:** This is a change from last school year.

Students may not place the bookbag or drawstring bag in the aisles when seated in the classroom, which poses a safety hazard. Bags can be placed underneath, on top of, or the back of the desk/table or a nearby unused desk/table, not touching other students' belongings.

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MOVEMENT AROUND THE BUILDING

Students will be transitioning throughout the school building during the school day. These transitions include arrival, class changes, lunches, restroom breaks, and dismissal (same as last school year). To maintain social distancing guidelines to the greatest extent possible, students must follow a few simple rules while moving throughout the hallways and common areas. Review these expectations with your child(ren).

1. Wear a face-covering*** (**MASK or FACE SHIELD**) at **ALL** times other than while eating or drinking or during specified face-covering breaks.
2. As students move throughout the building, stay to the right when walking down the hall to alleviate the cattle-herding that sometimes occurs in the hallways, and maintain social distancing guidelines to the greatest extent possible. **NOTE:** This is a change from last school year.
3. Refrain from touching any other person or object. Respect yourself, others, and property.
4. Bells will continue to dismiss students from classes and to lunches.

LUNCHES

Students will be dismissed via a bell to go to lunch (same as last school year).

Upon entering the cafeteria, students will be directed to seats that will be clearly marked where they may sit to follow social distancing guidelines to the greatest extent possible. **NOTE:** This is a change from last school year.

After students are seated, they will be called by the table to get in line to get their lunches, following social distancing guidelines to the greatest extent possible. **NOTE:** This is a change from last school year.

A face covering*** (**MASK or FACE SHIELD**) must be worn while seated and waiting to be called to get in line for lunch. Students must wear a face-covering*** (**MASK or FACE SHIELD**) while standing in line to get food. Once in the food line, students will be directed by cafeteria staff to choose the grab and go lunch and make a milk selection.

Students will not be reaching into the milk cooler this year. Snacks may or may not be offered for the first couple of weeks of the new school year. Students **MUST** choose a snack while going through the lunch line the first time. Students may choose at this time **ONLY** to purchase the daily snack being offered. Students will not be permitted to

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purchase a snack after receiving their lunch and taking a seat. **NOTE:** This is a change from last school year.

A face covering*** (**MASK or FACE SHIELD**) can be removed once students are seated to eat their lunch. Students will remain seated until they are dismissed from the cafeteria by table (same as last school year), at which time students must wear a face-covering*** (**MASK or FACE SHIELD**).

Upon dismissal from the cafeteria, students will take their trash with them and dispose of it in the garbage cans placed at the cafeteria's entrance/exit doors. **NOTE:** This is a change from last school year.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

At dismissal, end of the day announcements will be made (same as last school year). Students will follow social distancing guidelines to the greatest extent possible while wearing a face-covering*** (**MASK or FACE SHIELD**).

Instead of all three grade levels of students dismissing simultaneously, students will be dismissed by the letter of their last name, in this order: A-I, J-R, S-Z. **NOTE:** This is a change from last school year.

Parent pick-up will be very similar to parent drop off. Enter the SMS campus from the Chestnut Street entrance and follow directions through the parking lot to the crosswalk nearest the handicap parking spaces (same as last school year). Upon picking up your child, proceed through the lower parking lot (same as last school year).

Exit the SMS campus via the Arthur Avenue exit. **NOTE:** This is a change from last school year.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does my child access their school Email?

All students in the Southmoreland School district have a District provided email. We encourage and ask that each student check their emails daily. Each student's email in the district is in the same format. Passwords are the student's lunch number.

firstname.lastname@southmoreland.net **Ex: janedoe@southmoreland.net**

How do I find my teacher's email address?

All teachers in the Southmoreland School District have a District provided email that follows the same format.

lastnamefirstintial@southmoreland.net **Ex: doej@southmoreland.net**

Each teacher will have a specific time set aside each day as their "OFFICE HOURS." Teachers will be available to answer questions or help students during this time throughout each day. Depending on the circumstances, the teacher may help you in numerous ways that may include: email, Google classroom response, or possibly a google meet or zoom session. If you need assistance outside the specific office hours, please understand that your teacher may be teaching the students attending in-person class and may not be readily available. Teachers will respond at their earliest convenience. Teachers may, but are not required to answer emails, etc., outside of their scheduled workday.

How will virtual instruction this school year look different from our emergency distance learning instruction in the spring of 2020? Students will be instructed through a blend of asynchronous and synchronous instruction throughout each instructional block. Teachers and students may engage in live virtual instruction via Google Meet each instructional content block. Teachers will follow the same scope and sequence as we would in a face-to-face environment. Teachers will follow the same grading philosophy as we would in a face-to-face environment.

How is SSD preparing teachers to meet increased expectations for virtual instruction in the 2020-2021 school year? SSD students and parents can expect virtual instruction in the new school year to be more robust than distance learning in the spring with more real-time, live instruction, and personalized enrichment and intervention opportunities. Professional learning and job-embedded training for SSD teachers will allow for improvements to be made in the quality and depth of the curriculum as the District meets increased expectations for rigor from the state and required minutes of instruction.

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As part of the preparations for the 2020-21 school year, professional learning for staff is focused on virtual instruction. Even face-to-face teachers will provide instruction in a virtual environment at various points throughout the school year. Five staff professional development days were moved up to provide more opportunities for teacher and staff training earlier in the school year. These days include August 31, September 01, 02, 03, and 04.

As always, the focus of professional learning is on the best curriculum and instructional practices and strategies for social-emotional learning. The added layer this year is what these elements look like in a virtual environment. This includes setting up a virtual learning classroom, instructional frameworks, and models that support virtual learning and design instruction for virtual learning and digital tools to support virtual learning. This training will help all SSD teachers, including experienced teachers and those new to the profession, adapt instruction to an online format.

What is the difference between virtual instruction, distance learning, and SOLA?

Virtual instruction is a general term describing instruction that occurs via the internet. Distance learning at the middle school occurs when a student attending on the A/B hybrid model is not in school on alternating days for in-person instruction. SOLA students do not attend the middle school for in-person instruction at all.

Will the virtual curriculum of the middle school's SOLA mirror the in-person curriculum at the middle school?

The SOLA curriculum will have a different instructional design but will utilize the same curriculum and grading guidelines as face-to-face instruction. The SOLA assignments may look different, but they will cover the same content and skills as in-person instruction.

What will a typical day look like for a SOLA student at the Middle School?

Middle school students will generally follow a regular school day from start to finish in a virtual environment. Depending on the student and his/her grade, selected coursework, and individual needs, the amount of synchronous versus asynchronous time may differ from student to student. Teachers will be available during a scheduled period of time to provide instruction and support for students. Students can email teachers during scheduled times (according to the student's school schedule) to receive clarification of content and assignments.

Will assignments be due daily or weekly? Students will have assignments that are due daily and/or at teacher discretion, just like the face-to-face classroom.

How much of the learning will be synchronous versus asynchronous? This will vary from grade to grade, student to student, and class to class.

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Does the district plan to live-stream teachers teaching their classes during synchronous learning? No. There are a few reasons why the District did not pursue this option. There are potential FERPA concerns that directly impact student privacy. Teachers are facilitators who provide multiple opportunities for collaboration, experiential learning, and project-based learning in our classrooms – all of which would not transfer well to a live-streamed environment. Direct instruction and the dissemination of rote information is a very small part of high-quality lessons. By recording a class while students are receiving face-to-face instruction, we would be asking the teacher to interact with students in the virtual class simultaneously. While that works in some circumstances with the proper training and the right teacher, it is very difficult to duplicate in a district like SSD. It would be difficult for virtual students to experience the totality of the classroom environment.

How will distance learning this year be different from the previous spring? The distance learning component has numerous differences from in the spring based on the feedback received from parents, students, and teachers. Students who receive supplemental services will find that their services are developmentally appropriate.

What are the key aspects of distance learning?

Content learning and activities will be planned by the teacher to make sure each student receives their full curriculum as offered in previous regular in-person school years.

An improvement upon the quality and depth of the curriculum.

Personalized learning opportunities.

A mix of pre-recorded videos and real-time virtual lessons.

Data-driven, personalized enrichment, and intervention.

The same scope and sequence as students in the classroom.

Some mandated related services, to be scheduled on an individual or small group basis, will also be offered on campus.

Can I borrow a technology device to use for distance learning? SSD will provide a limited amount of technology devices to as many students as possible and who need them to participate in distance learning. Contact the middle school main office if you need to borrow a device. If a student received a device in the spring, they would not receive an additional device.

How will distance learning courses and assignments be graded? Grading for all distance learning courses and assignments will follow the same grading policy as the face-to-face model courses.

Will SSD provide to-go meals service to distance learning students and during periods of virtual instruction? The SSD Child Nutrition Department will provide meals to distance learning students throughout the 2020-21 school year. The main difference

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from the 2019-20 school year is that students will need to qualify for free or reduced meals based on the federal income guidelines to receive meals at little or no cost.

How will attendance be taken during distance learning instruction or SOLA?

According to PDE guidance, truancy and attendance policies are required to continue to be in place, no matter the students' setting daily. SSD will continue the current policies related to attendance. Timely communication from a parent/guardian with the middle school office is critical during this time. In a virtual learning environment, attendance will continue to be recorded, and students earn attendance through daily engagement measures. Specifically, attendance will be monitored through a Google document sent via email or text message on the day of distance learning or SOLA instruction. If a student is absent, a parent/guardian excuse must be submitted, just like absences from brick and mortar school.

Are the rigor levels and expectations the same for in-person and SOLA? SOLA will have a different instructional design but will utilize the same high quality, rigorous SSD curriculum as students in face-to-face instruction. The level of rigor, workload, time commitment, and timing of classes will differ from the distance learning plan in the spring of 2020. During virtual instruction, time management is critical to success. Students and teachers must remain in communication regarding daily schedules and assignments. As with any traditional course, there is a risk of receiving a lower grade if a student falls behind.

What platform is SSD using for distance learning? Middle school students will engage in distance learning and SOLA through Google Classroom.

If my child participates in SOLA, how will they get extra help when they have questions? Middle students will be provided "live" synchronous virtual opportunities to ask questions during posted OFFICE HOURS. Students should reach out to their teacher for an available tutorial time. Teachers have one period per day in their daily schedule open for communication with students enrolled in SOLA.

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WHAT TYPE OF FACE COVERING IS REQUIRED?

A face covering means a covering of the **nose and mouth** that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is wrapped around the lower face. A face covering can be made of a variety of synthetic or natural fabrics, including cotton, silk, linen, and, for the **ORDER**, can include a plastic face shield covering the nose and mouth. Face coverings may be factory-made, sewn by hand, or improvised from household items, including but not limited to scarves, bandanas, t-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels. Face coverings must be worn at all times, even when maintaining a safe distance of 6-feet apart from others. Face coverings **must** meet the guidelines of our student dress code regarding sayings, drawings, pictures, etc.

CAN STUDENTS CARRY WATER BOTTLES?

Students will be allowed to carry water bottles throughout the school day this year. We currently do not have water refilling stations in our inventory. We are unsure when they will be delivered. We will have bottled water available for students.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

For those who are not familiar with Google Classroom, please find below a couple of YouTube links that will help you navigate the platform. Teachers will be spending additional time in classes to familiarize students with Google classroom.

The IT department is finalizing an informational guide for students and parents that contains information on accessing the parent and student portal in CSIU, Google Classroom, student emails, etc.

Student Video

[Google Classroom Tutorial for Students and Parents](#)

Parent Video

[How to Use Google Classroom for Parents](#)

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A/B AND SOLA INSTRUCTIONAL MODELS

Instructions for Students & Parents

This instructional guide was developed to assist both students and parents as we begin this groundbreaking, never before seen 2020-2021 school year. We understand there might be questions that arise even after following this guide; however, we believe this guide will answer many student and parent questions. We will attempt to paint a picture of the school day for in-person instruction and not-in person instruction. The first day of school for all students in the District is September 8th; it is a **B-day** and **Day 2**, across the District. Students who attend school on A-day will attend on Day 1, Day 3, and Day 5. Students who attend school on a B-day will attend on Day 2, Day 4, and Day 6.

Let us provide clarification on some common language as it relates to instruction this year. Many terms are used interchangeably, which is confusing. Programming in each building is different. **This reference guide is relevant for SMS students ONLY participating in the A/B and SOLA models of instruction.**

Most on-line teaching happens asynchronously, with synchronous learning usually taking place only if there is a specific need for live discussion or interaction, or as a strategy to build community among learners. What's the difference between synchronous learning and asynchronous learning? The answer could have a significant impact on your on-line education experience. Synchronous learning is on-line or distance education that happens in real-time, whereas asynchronous learning occurs through on-line channels without real-time interaction. Many hybrid learning models will include a blend of both asynchronous and synchronous on-line learning. But models that use a strictly synchronous learning approach or a strictly asynchronous learning approach will have some distinctly different features.

What is Virtual Learning?

Virtual learning is a learning experience enhanced by utilizing computers and/or the internet both outside and inside the educational organization's facilities. The instruction most commonly takes place in an on-line environment. The teaching activities are carried out on-line whereby the teacher and learners are physically separated (in terms of location, time, or both). Virtual learning can be defined as a virtual learning environment with electronic study content designed for self-paced (asynchronous) or live web-conferencing (synchronous) on-line teaching and tutoring.

Virtual learning offers remote access to an unlimited array of educational services, including topics and on-line tutors delivered worldwide. The learning process can be individualized through virtual learning, considering the personal level of competence, individual needs, and different learning styles of each student. Virtual learning is flexible through time, space, and location. Virtually learning can occur from the safe and secure comfort of your own home.

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What is Synchronous Learning?

Synchronous learning refers to all learning types in which learner(s) and instructor(s) are in the same place, at the same time, for learning to take place. Synchronous learning includes in-person classes, live on-line meetings when the whole class or smaller groups get together. In synchronous learning, students usually go through the learning path together, accompanied by their instructor, who can provide support while students are completing tasks and activities.

Synchronous learning is the kind of learning that happens in real-time. Synchronous learning means that you, your classmates, and your instructor interact in a specific virtual place, through a specific on-line medium, at a specific time. Methods of synchronous on-line learning include video conferencing, teleconferencing, live chatting, and live-streaming lectures.

What are the advantages of synchronous learning?

Classroom Engagement

Synchronous learning provides the learner active discussion, immediate feedback, and a personal familiarity that can only be achieved through real-time interaction. Real-time interaction is an incredibly important distinction if you're making the transition from the traditional classroom to an on-line setting. The personal contact you get through live video conferencing, lecture broadcasts, or messenger chatting can make it a lot easier to transition. You can essentially have all the personal engagement of a classroom without attending in-person.

Dynamic Learning

This experience comes with more than just engagement, though. There's a case to be made that synchronous on-line learning is simply an excellent way to learn, that it allows for a more dynamic exploration of topics, ideas, and concepts than is possible in a medium with a time lag. Videoconferencing, for instance, makes it possible to ask questions and receive answers mid-lesson, to discourse and debate with classmates at a brisk and exciting pace, to drive a conversation into unexpected new directions collectively. There is a speed and immediacy to synchronous on-line learning that, at its best, evokes the same level of accountability and engagement as classroom attendance. If you thrive at a swift pace, surrounded by competing and complementary ideas, this is as close as you'll come to the real thing.

Instructional Depth

With synchronous on-line learning, you'll interact regularly and frequently with your teacher(s). It also provides a regular opportunity for face-to-face discussion and individual guidance. If you're the type of student that does your best work with the help of available and supportive instruction, you're probably a synchronous learner.

What are the disadvantages of synchronous learning?

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Rigid Schedule

If you've chosen on-line learning because of your hectic and unpredictable technology issues, synchronous learning may present you with some challenges. The defining characteristic of this learning experience is its adherence to a set schedule. Lectures and class discussions will take place at established meeting times. You may have a hard time satisfying course requirements if your job as an X-box gamer keeps you up at strange hours, or your social media interactions render you fully occupied during the day time. If flexibility is the number one reason you've decided to go the on-line route, make sure you can manage your synchronous learning responsibility around your schedule.

Technical Difficulties

The above concern is especially pressing if you're a person on the go. Suppose your parents require you to have supervision throughout the day when you are not attending for in-person instruction. This kind of mobility may force you to complete coursework in weird places like coffee shops with Grandma, the doctor's office with Uncle, and Aunt Myrtle's house. In that case, you're probably always carrying a laptop and always searching for a wireless signal. That search could be pretty stressful if you're desperately trying to log in for a lecture, videoconference, or heaven forbid, an exam. As a synchronous learner, technical difficulties like spotty internet, crashing hard drives, and dying batteries can become anything from an inconvenience to a disaster. Instead of logging in and sitting for your exam, you're sweating profusely and yelling at your computer. Who has the time for that?

What is Asynchronous Learning?

Asynchronous learning happens on your schedule. While your teacher(s) will provide materials for reading, lectures for viewing, assignments for completing, and exams for evaluation, you can access and satisfy these requirements within a flexible time frame. Methods of asynchronous on-line learning include self-guided lesson modules, streaming video content, virtual libraries, posted lecture notes, and exchanges across discussion boards or social media platforms.

Asynchronous learning is a student-centered teaching method widely used in on-line learning. Its basic premise is that learning can occur in different times and spaces particular to each learner. In asynchronous learning, teacher(s) usually set up a learning path, which students engage with at their own pace.

Why Do Many Instructors Teach Asynchronously?

Streaming video and connecting to on-line meetings uses significant amounts of data and requires fast internet connections to which not all students may have access. Even in cases when most students do have high-speed internet and can connect to meetings successfully, it only takes one glitch or two glitches in connectivity or audio/video troubles to affect the overall quality of the meeting.

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Audio and video troubleshooting tend to take up a significant portion of on-line meetings, including preparing ahead of time and in-meeting troubleshooting. It is not infrequent for microphones that worked well to stop working suddenly, webcams to go dark inexplicably, or for files to disappear from your desktop just when you needed to share them. With asynchronous learning, teacher(s) can take their time setting up the learning path before students have access.

Successful on-line meetings with large groups require a lot of stars to align. Having a good meeting means everyone logs in on time, has few or no tech issues, can control their individual learning spaces, makes sure the dog doesn't bark, or the baby brother doesn't cry. Some teacher(s) prefer not to deal with this if they know learning outcomes can be reached asynchronously just as well.

On-line collaboration and group work can very well be done asynchronously. Remember that hour-long meeting that could have easily been an email? The same thing goes for learning. While it is always good to have synchronous check-ins, office hours, and Q&As, most thinking and grappling with course content can be done asynchronously. Keep live meeting times short and use them to answer questions and run through difficult-to-write-down topics or issues.

Whether students are choosing to learn on-line, or there is a circumstance that makes on-line learning their only choice, hour-long lectures or web meetings will quickly exhaust learners. If synchronous sessions must occur, they should be kept short and sweet and allow as much interaction between participants as is technologically possible.

What are the advantages of asynchronous learning?

Flexibility

If you've got a demanding schedule or weird hours, you're probably an asynchronous learner. Your learning will typically revolve around materials that can be accessed on your own time (though often within a set time frame like a day or two). Materials might include text-based lecture notes, self-guided interactive learning modules, or pre-recorded lectures and podcasts. Suppose you need to complete a module on the car ride to Walmart or listen to a lecture on headphones while your dog naps or you work the graveyard shift for X-box gaming or sleep until the middle of the afternoon. In that case, you do your best reading while reruns blather in the background, then asynchronous learning is for you. Asynchronous learning gives you the materials. It's up to you to complete them at your convenience.

Pacing

One of the most empowering features of asynchronous learning is the fact that your experience is typically self-guided. Read at your pace. View on your time. Complete work based on your availability. If you're a quick learner, you can choose to power through materials and units that come easily to you. If it takes you a bit more time to

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absorb new information and knowledge, this path also gives you the chance to review information, take notes, and practice retention without concern over the speed of a lecture or your classmates' pace. Shape your learning experience based on your needs as opposed to the tempo of the classroom.

What are the disadvantages of asynchronous learning?

Isolation

If you like the personal touch and do your best thinking when you feel like people are listening, asynchronous learning can be a lonely experience. Social media and email can't deliver the same kind of intellectual energy as real-time interaction. This atmosphere is also a less collaborative one. The opportunities to interface with, debate, and network with classmates are scarcer. In many ways, asynchronous learning is best for you if you plan to get in, get some skills, and get out. (There's nothing wrong with that plan, by the way.) If you're looking for the kind of enrichment that comes from discussion, feedback, and just a little bit of social interaction, you might be disappointed by your asynchronous learning experience.

Risk of Apathy

While working in a self-guided environment sounds great and empowering, it is important to be honest with yourself. Are you indeed the kind of learner with the drive, not just to pace yourself and commit to a set of personal goals, but to remain passionate and enthusiastic about the subject matter without the support and evaluation of an instructor? The reality is that some learners benefit best from access to clearly stated expectations, immediate feedback, and, to an extent, a watchful eye. If you're this type of learner, the free-form nature of asynchronous learning could be demotivating. Beware of complacency.

YOU SAID WHAT?

The SOLA at SMS is an example of a fully virtual program. Students will not attend school for in-person instruction. Instruction is fully on-line and predominantly asynchronous. Teachers will have posted OFFICE HOURS each day. Students can contact their teacher via email during their assigned class time that is listed on their school schedule. Teachers may or may not choose to provide short synchronous lessons during the scheduled class time. Teachers may provide content and lessons through various instructional methods that may include: Zoom live teacher conducted lessons, Google classroom, educational videos, etc. Teachers are **ONLY** available throughout the school day during their posted OFFICE HOURS if students or parents seek clarification of content or need questions answered.

A teacher's email address is lastnamefirstinitial@southmoreland.net
Example: John Smith smithj@southmoreland.net

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The A/B model at SMS is an example of a partially virtual learning program. Students have assigned days to attend school for in-person instruction and assigned days when they do not attend school for in-person instruction. Students will alternate days for in-person instruction.

WHAT DOES MY SCHOOL DAY LOOK LIKE?

What does instruction look like prior to March 13, 2020, and COVID-19?

First (1) day of instruction, the teacher introduces a novel and assigns students the first chapter of the novel to read and the *Elements of a Story Chart*, asking students to identify the plot, setting, characters, theme, and point of view. The *Elements of a Story Chart* will be due at the beginning of the class period on the second (2) day of instruction.

Second (2) day of instruction, students review answers to the *Elements of a Story Chart*. The teacher assigns students the second chapter to read and *Elements of a Story Chart*, asking students to identify the plot, setting, characters, theme, and point of view. This assignment will be due at the beginning of the class period on the third (3) day of instruction.

Third (3) day of instruction, students review answers to the *Elements of a Story Chart*. The teacher assigns a *Culminating Activity* that will be due at the end of the class period on the fifth (5) day of instruction.

Fourth (4) day of instruction, students continue working on the *Culminating Activity* that will be due at the end of the class period on the fifth (5) day of instruction.

Fifth (5) day of instruction, students continue working on the *Culminating Activity* that will be due at the end of the class period on the fifth (5) day of instruction.

**KINDNESS AND COMMON SENSE MUST PREVAIL TO GET US THROUGH THESE
DIFFICULT TIMES.**



Southmoreland Middle School SMS



SEPTEMBER 8TH IS THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AND IS A B-DAY.

What does instruction look like if I am a B-day student on the first day?

First (1) day of instruction is a B-day (**B-day students attend school for in-person instruction**). The teacher introduces a novel and has an assignment posted in Google classroom to read the first chapter of the novel to complete the *Elements of a Story Chart* that will be due by the end of the day at 11:59 PM on the second (2) day of instruction.

Second (2) day of instruction is an A-day (**B-day students do not attend for in-person instruction**). Students submit the *Elements of a Story Chart* to the teacher via Google classroom by the end of the day at 11:59 PM. The teacher has an assignment posted in Google classroom to read the second chapter of the novel to complete the *Elements of a Story Chart*, asking students to identify the plot, setting, characters, theme, and point of view. This assignment will be due by the end of the class period on the third (3) day of instruction.

Third (3) day of instruction is a B-day (**B-day students attend for in-person instruction**). Students complete the *Elements of a Story Chart* during class and reviews with the teacher. The teacher has an assignment posted in Google classroom of a *Culminating Activity* that will be due by the end of the class period on the fifth (5) day of instruction.

The fourth (4) day of instruction is an A-day (**B-day students do not attend for in-person instruction**). Students continue working on the *Culminating Activity* that will be due by the end of the class period on the fifth (5) day of instruction.

The fifth (5) day of instruction is a B-day (**B-day students attend for in-person instruction**). Students continue working on the *Culminating Activity* and submit to the teacher by the end of the class period on the fifth (5) day of instruction.

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Southmoreland Middle School SMS



SEPTEMBER 8TH IS THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AND IS A B-DAY.

What does instruction look like if I am an A-day student on the first day?

First (1) day of instruction is a B-day (**A-day students do not attend school for in-person instruction**). The teacher introduces a novel and has an assignment posted in Google classroom to read the first chapter of the novel to complete the *Elements of a Story Chart* that asks students to identify the plot, setting, characters, theme, and point of view. This assignment will be due by the end of the class period on the second (2) day of instruction.

Second (2) day of instruction is an A-day (**A-day students attend for in-person instruction**). Students complete the *Elements of a Story Chart* during class and review answers with the teacher. The teacher posts an assignment in the Google classroom to read the second chapter of the novel in preparation for an *Elements of a Story Chart*, asking students to identify the plot, setting, characters, theme, and point of view. The assignment will be due at the end of the class period on the third (3) day of instruction.

Third (3) day of instruction is a B-day (**A-day students do not attend for in-person instruction**). Students complete the *Elements of a Story Chart* and submit to Google classroom by the end of the day at 11:59 PM. The teacher has an assignment posted in Google classroom of a *Culminating Activity* that will be due by the end of the class period on the fifth (5) day of instruction.

The fourth (4) day of instruction is an A-day (**A-day students attend for in-person instruction**). Students continue working on the *Culminating Activity* that will be due at the end of the class period on the fifth (5) day of instruction.

The fifth (5) day of instruction is a B-day (**A-day students do not attend for in-person instruction**). Students continue to work on the *Culminating Activity* and submit to the teacher via Google classroom by the end of the class period on the fifth (5) day of instruction.

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