

Southmoreland School District



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"High Quality Learning for All"

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you back to school in the Southmoreland School District. I hope that your families have enjoyed a fun and restful summer and are now ready to return to school and to learning. Our faculty and staff have been preparing for the reopening of school, and our faculty and administration have been involved in professional development. The excitement of the return to school was evident as our hallways once again were filled with teachers.

We will be greeting our students on campus beginning Wednesday, September 1st, 2021. Our SOLA students begin their virtual instruction on Monday, August 31st, 2021. Please be looking for bus information in your mail. Please also visit your schools' websites for start and end times to our school days and for other information regarding the first week of school.

At this time, the Southmoreland School District is recommending masks but not requiring them for attending school. Masks are required for riding the bus, so please make sure your child has one handy. If a student doesn't have one, the driver will provide one for them to ride on the bus. While we welcome all students back for in person learning, social distancing will be implemented where feasible and more aligned to three rather than six feet. Cleaning supplies will be available for teachers to encourage use when desks are used by multiple students. Hand sanitizer will be available in high traffic areas. Staff will encourage students to wash hands and practice good hand hygiene. If your child demonstrates symptoms of COVID-19 or has been informed that he/she is a close contact from an exposure outside of the school setting, please contact the school nurse by email or phone.

It is good to be beginning the school year again. With respect to learning this year, we are excited to share our new NWEA Maps program with you. We will be conducting progress monitoring with all students in reading and in math, grades K through 12, and sharing periodic data regarding their growth with you. More information regarding Maps will be coming home to you and posted on our district page. A new reading series called "Wonders" will also be introduced this year in grades K through 5.

The district is working with the local Army recruiters to establish our STARS program for students in grades 9 through 12. The STARS program will help our high school students to learn more about a career in military service and all of the benefits that can be offered to students who may want to explore this path. This fall, we will be establishing a Community Outreach Committee that will help us to connect students with local business and resources to enhance their experiences and learning while at Southmoreland. Together, we all learn better.

Our athletic programs are already competing in their fall schedules. Again, masks are not required for fans in attendance at this time. Our Scottie football team opens up against McGuffey this Friday at 7 PM at Russ Grimm Field. Our marching band and cheerleaders will be performing at the game and we hope you will join us to support those programs. Please visit our district athletic page for schedules and more information about our sports teams. You can find the athletic page on our district website.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the Southmoreland School District Learning Community, I want to wish each of you a great and successful school year. Go Scotties!

Respectfully,

Vincent Mascia

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Superintendent of Schools