

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Regional School Unit No. 73



Catherine Siggins
MS/LSW
csiggins@rsu73.com

Carolyn Luce, Principal
cluce@rsu73.com

Craig Collins
Dean of Students/AD
ccollins@rsu73.com

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Dear SMMS Families,

During this time of hybrid and distance learning, I want to ensure that each of our middle school students are engaging with their curriculum, assignments, and teachers each day. We are working our hardest to deliver quality instruction through a virtual learning environment and we need your support to ensure the success of this effort! Please take a moment to review our expectations below and talk with your child about their commitment to school during this time.

As students it is your responsibility to:

- Communicate with your parents and teachers:
 - Check your Gmail and Google Classroom pages every single day. If you encounter an assignment that is tricky or directions that you don't understand, ask for help. Your teachers and I would encourage you to persist, even if the assignment seems hard. Your teachers are not going to ask you to do something that you are not able to do. Use the skills you have acquired. Ask questions. Always do your best. Remember that all learning requires persistence and this is even more true of distance learning.
- Attend School:
 - Come to school on "in-person" days, if you are part of the hybrid model. Unless you are ill, you cannot afford to miss school, especially now that you may only be attending in-person two days each week.
 - If you are a fully remote learner, you need to take the attendance survey Monday through Thursday, by 9AM. Right now, only 60% of our remote students are checking in daily. The process is easy - simply check your Gmail each morning by 9AM. You will have a Google Form from Mr. Collins. All you are required to do is type your first and last name, click on your grade level, and the day of the week, and you will be recorded as "present" in Powerschool.
- Complete your schoolwork:
 - Assignment completion is vitally important. The work you submit to your teachers is the measure by which they are gauging your progress with, and mastery of, the content. If you choose to turn in incomplete work or choose to skip assignments altogether, you are robbing yourself of the opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge to your teachers, and putting yourself at risk, academically.
- Pay attention to due dates and deadlines:
 - Completing your work in a timely manner is an expectation every teacher has for their students, regardless of whether a student is attending school in-person or engaged in online learning. The days you are at home are *not* days off from school. You are expected to progress on assignment completion and check in with your teachers while at home. Otherwise, falling behind in school will be a reality.

I cannot stress this enough: establishing good work habits now is crucial to your success later in life.

As parents/guardians you can help support your child and our teachers by:

- Setting up an at-home learning routine/schedule that works for your family.
 - If your child is fully remote, taking the daily attendance survey is a great way to kick off the school day.
 - We suggest setting aside 2 to 3 hours for school work on remote learning days. We realize the time spent on schoolwork will vary from student to student. Students do not need to complete the time in one sitting. On some remote days, students may have more work to do than on other days. We understand the amount of time spent on school work will vary based upon each child's needs, learning opportunities, and learning style. Please encourage your child to do the best s/he can with the opportunities provided.
- Checking in with your child to see how their learning/assignment completion is progressing.
 - Engage with your child beyond the question, "Did you finish your homework?" Ask your child to show you what they have been working on. If an assignment was tricky, ask them if they reached out to their teacher. Encourage them to persist and praise them for persevering.
- Contacting teachers with any needs, questions, or concerns you or your child may have.
 - Check Powerschool for weekly posted grades.
 - Review with your child his/her teachers' online office hours.

To the extent that you can support your child with a structured schedule, including breaks, healthy meals, and physical activity, they will weather this situation.

As a staff, we pledge to:

- Share learning opportunities with students through Google Classroom.
- Use digital platforms such as Google Classroom and Google Meet to continually provide support to students.
- Maintain ongoing communication with students and families via email, Remind, and Powerschool.
- Connect with students and families by making phone calls, and reaching out via email to students who have been absent from school or the virtual classroom.
- Monitor student engagement, assignment completion, and provide feedback and grades on assignments.
- Champion our students daily by providing high-quality instruction and encouraging them to do their best.

We have embarked on a significant endeavor, educating our students via hybrid and remote learning models. None of this would be possible if it were not for our creative, intelligent, and dedicated teachers. Likewise, this would not be possible without your commitment to your children and your support of our teachers. If you are feeling overwhelmed, please be compassionate to yourself. Remember that children are incredibly resilient and our school community is here to support you.

Sincerely,

Carrie Luce
Principal