



# Sumner County Board of Education

Del R. Phillips III, Ph.D.

Director of Schools

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SCS Community,

I hope this letter finds all of our community healthy and safe. Spring break began only a week ago, but it feels like our district, families, and county has faced a month's worth of challenges and changes over the past 11 days.

We are following the governor's recommendation that schools remain closed through April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Today we launched our Grab and Go Breakfast and Lunch program at 12 schools across our county. We served over 1300 meals today to students at those schools. Any child under 18, or any student that attends Sumner County Schools, is eligible to receive a free meal. We will continue to provide this service for our students until school reopens. We are thankful to the overwhelming number of people who have reached out to volunteer their help with this crucial program. It says a lot about our community when everyone's first thought is how they can serve others in need.

Over the next few days, our instructional staff will begin providing a number of online resources for parents and students to access and use at home. We want to share the very best resources with you in ways that help provide quality instructional resources for your children. Great Minds, who created our *Wit & Wisdom* ELA curriculum, is providing free, 30-minute lessons each day in Math and ELA. The link to that website is <https://gm.greatminds.org/en-us/knowledgeonthegeo>. By Monday, all of our high school students will be enrolled in Edgenuity online courses. They will be able to access all course materials, complete assignments, and take assessments on the Edgenuity platform. More specific information will be available by Friday morning for high school students.

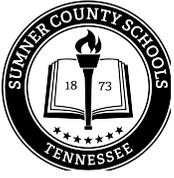
In addition, Sumner County teachers will be recording lessons as part of the Tennessee Department of Education's project to broadcast instructional content on the state's PBS stations. This instructional content will be developed and provided by Tennessee educators in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Education and meets a critical need to ensure all students have access to high-quality learning opportunities, regardless if their home has internet connectivity or capable devices. The broadcasts will air daily from 10 a.m. to noon, beginning on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

For parents of high school seniors, we are seeking guidance from the Tennessee Department of Education regarding changes to graduation requirements and will share further information with parents as soon as we receive it. High School principals are also working to reschedule proms and other end of year events to later dates. We are committed to do our part to have annual events that are important to seniors, such as prom and graduation, but we ask for parents' patience and flexibility as we navigate this ever-changing situation. We can't make a firm commitment today with so many things changing hourly in our community.

As Director of Schools, I have been very proud to witness the efforts of our teachers and principals reaching out to their students. Whether it's been through social media videos, Zoom conferences, or standing in our grab and go food lines holding signs with words of encouragement, our teachers and

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principals are going above and beyond to let their students know how much they care and miss seeing them at school.

I also want to thank our students and parents for their patience and understanding as we face this unprecedented time together.

Our priority in this historic closure is to go above and beyond to provide our students with educational opportunities, while keeping our students and staff healthy and safe. If you have questions, please email your child's teacher or principal. Our principals and teachers will also be providing educational resources through their normal means of school communication to parents until April 24<sup>th</sup>.

In highest regard,

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