



Southland School District Distance Learning Plan (Spring 2020)

If Southland Public Schools realizes an extended closure due to the Coronavirus pandemic, instruction and learning will be occurring online. The **Southland Distance Learning Plan** has been developed with guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education.

General Information About the Distance Learning Plan:

- **DISTANCE LEARNING:** The MN Department of Education defines distance learning as the following: *“Students engaging in distance learning have access to appropriate educational materials and receive daily interaction with their licensed teacher(s).”* Students are expected to be interacting with their teachers and engaging in learning on a daily basis. Classes will be aligned to the MN Standards. Instruction and assessments will be different than a regular face-to-face classroom setting. Students should expect to spend approximately 4 hours each day participating in instruction and completing assignments.
- **LEARNING PLATFORMS:** Elementary teachers will use Seesaw (K-3) and Google Classroom (4-5) as the primary learning platforms. Middle/High School teachers will use Schoology to communicate and deliver content to students. Students are expected to use Schoology to communicate with their teachers with any questions. Parents are highly encouraged to be signed up for Schoology to help support students with distance learning. Parents, please contact your student’s teachers if you do not have access to your student’s learning platforms.
- **OFFICE HOURS:** Southland school offices will be open from 7:30am - 3:30pm during Distance Learning Days. Office staff will be available. Parents and students who need to come to the school must report to Door #2 at the Elementary School or Door #2 at the Middle/High School.
- **CLASS ATTENDANCE:** Elementary student attendance will be monitored via participation in daily interactive activities and/or Zoom meetings. Middle/High school students need to check in by 3:00 PM and complete the [attendance form](#) found on the Southland homepage one time each day.
- **STUDENT ABSENCE:** If students are ill or have an appointment, parents should call the office to excuse them. Students will be expected to be online each day and to participate in daily classroom activities or assignments unless excused by a parent. Teachers will be notified of students who are called in as absent. Parents should notify the office if their student is having technical issues that limits their ability to complete assignments.

- **STUDENT SUPPORT:** All teachers and support staff will be available to provide support and assistance for students each school day. The dean of students and social worker will work with students and/or parents to ensure needed services are provided.
- **TEACHER WORKDAY:** Teachers will be able to work from home or school. They can work from home if they can perform their distance learning teaching duties. The teacher workday will continue to be from 7:30am - 3:30 pm unless alternate arrangements are made on an individual basis.
- **TEACHER ABSENCE:** If a teacher is unable to be present for class (illness, personal leave, appointment, etc.), they will leave student expectations for the day on their online platform, much like they would leave for a substitute.
- **STUDENTS WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS:** All efforts will be made to assist families with obtaining internet access. If internet access is not an option, please contact the office so alternative instructional materials can be developed by teachers.
- **SPECIAL EDUCATION LEARNERS:** The specific needs of each special education student are outlined in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP). Teachers will continue to apply the accommodations and modifications required for each student per their IEP. During a district closure, special education teachers will be in contact with students and/or parents to ensure the continuity of service is provided as is appropriate. Students on IEP's will continue to receive support services. SPED case managers will continue to address individual IEP goals.
- **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS:** Our EL teacher will work with students and parents to provide academic support as needed. Our EL paraprofessional will work with students and families to help interpret and support our EL students with classroom activities.
- **LIBRARY BOOKS:** All K-12 students have access to a digital library through the MackinVIA app on their digital learning device.
- **BREAKFAST AND LUNCH:** All students ages 18 and under in our school district have the opportunity to receive a free breakfast and lunch during distance learning. See Southland's COVID-19 Information Page for more information about food service options. <https://www.isd500.k12.mn.us/page/3879>
- **DAMAGED DEVICE:** If you have a damaged iPad/Laptop or cracked screen, please bring it to the office so arrangements can be made to fix or replace the device.
- **ADVISORY:** Middle/High school "Rebels" advisors will stay connected to their students and work to arrange meetings to offer any needed support as needed.

We will continue to add to this document as we update and improve our plan!