



April 9, 2021

SLSD Parents and Guardians,

Six weeks have passed since the Southern Lehigh School District transitioned to 4 Day In-Person Instruction. This week, we welcomed over two hundred additional students back into our school buildings for the start of the 4th Marking Period. While we are thankful for the opportunity to welcome more students into our school buildings, we remain committed to all of our students both those physically present and those learning from home. Listed below are several updates;

- **State Standardized Testing Reminder** - On March 26th, the District communicated SLSD's plan for administering the PSSA and Keystone Exams. This information is also available on the SLSD Website under the [20-21 PSSA/Keystone Info Tab](#). Families interested in opting their student out of the required 20-21 PA Standardized Assessments can find more information about that process via the following [link](#).
- **Pennsylvania Vaccine Update** - A month ago, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania announced a special initiative that prioritized the initial allocation of the J&J Vaccine for PK-12 educators, early childhood educators, and educational support staff. After one month, over 100,000 educators were vaccinated through this program. In the coming days, COVID-19 vaccination eligibility in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will dramatically increase. Interested Individuals can seek opportunities to schedule vaccine appointments at a variety of regional providers including the [SLUHN](#), [LVHN](#), [Allentown Health Bureau](#), and [Bethlehem Health Bureau](#).
- **Best Communities for Music Education** - Please join me in congratulating our K-12 Music Education Program as it was again recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants as one of the Best Communities for Music Education. As a community, this recognition is an example of our innovative and resourceful music education programs and the overwhelming value that a comprehensive music education program provides our community. Thank you to all of our educators, students, and families for continuing to support our music programs.
- **Spring Sports** - The Spring Sports Season is underway and we wish each and every SLSD student athlete and coach a successful season. As a reminder, please continue to follow the District's mitigation practices while supporting the Spartans throughout the Spring Sports Season.
- **Request for Support** - The SLSD School Counselors designed this resource to ensure that our School Counseling teams can support families in our community who have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Please do not hesitate to use this resource as a way to connect with your students School Counselor should you need additional assistance.
- **Student Technology Assistance** - All students needing technology assistance can utilize the SLSD digital helpdesk to seek support on all technology related issues or concerns.

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Please continue to complete [Daily Symptom Monitoring](#) with your students as it remains a critical component in ensuring that we can keep our students in school in person. Please stress with your students the importance of maintaining our mitigation practices like wearing well-fitted face coverings, frequently washing/sanitizing hands, maintaining a physical distance, avoiding interactions with those outside your household, and limiting travel.

Kathleen Evison

Superintendent