

April 6, 2020

Dear Humboldt Families,

Today was the launch of a new era in education for our students and teachers -- SPPS Distance Learning. SPPS Distance Learning relies heavily on iPad devices and district-approved apps and services such as Schoology and Seesaw.

We are all learning how to best navigate our new reality. We have worked to create new ways to engage your child's mind and look forward to working with you as we journey together. Today we had virtual lessons with new learning involving screen casts, Schoology conferences, and other web-based applications. The path we travel together won't be perfect, and there will be technical problems, and we will persist, and our students will learn. As we work together, I ask for your patience and understanding while we work to navigate our temporary virtual school.

We are in a time where delivering academics and turning in assignments rely on internet connectivity and online learning tools to work correctly, but the reality is these tools are, and will be, in the highest demand ever across the nation. **There will be technology glitches along the way.**

Our teachers are ready to conduct their virtual classrooms, but they will encounter challenges when things don't work correctly. Please keep in mind that students will be held harmless for circumstances out of their control.

Distance Learning is new for everyone. Please be patient, kind and understanding of all our students and educators as we work to address challenges that arise along the way. We will do our best to respond to your emails and voicemails as quickly as possible.

If you have questions, please visit:

- spps.org/distancelearning for information about SPPS Distance Learning
- spps.org/covid for updates about SPPS COVID-19 Response plan including meal service, health and wellness updates and more.
- spps.org/iPadHelp for information about technology support during Distance Learning.
- spps.org/covidmeals for meal service information

If you have questions that you cannot find answers to on district websites, please call our school and leave a voicemail. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

You may also leave a message for the Office of Family Engagement at 651-767-8347 or email family.engagement@spps.org for assistance. If you need technology support, please call 651-603-4348, email familysupport@spps.org or visit spps.org/ipadhelp.



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Looking forward, and knowing that technology issues at some point will cause stress and anxiety to students, families and educators, I want to offer some quick thoughts if your child has trouble with technology in the future.

Breathe. No one is going to penalize your child if Schoology or Seesaw is not working, your iPad needs repair or assignments are not posting. Educators will regroup on a regular basis and reflect on what worked well, and what didn't work well. If large-scale technology issues arise, the district will send out notification. If technology doesn't allow your student to submit their homework, please email your child's teacher and ask them how they would like to receive it.

Encourage your child not to stress or to worry about things like technology not working. I don't want families to worry either. This is new for everyone. We are in this together. We need everyone to be patient, kind and understanding through this journey. We will work to help your child so they are successful.

Thank you for supporting your child and Humboldt High School. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call or text me at 612-382-3663.

Sincerely,

Mike Sodomka Principal
Humboldt High School