



Central Elementary

Todd Gowen
Principal

Jill Newton
School Counselor

Lisa Long
Secretary

Tina Cook
Office Assistant

A Message from Mr. Gowen

April 13, 2019

Dear Central Families,

I want to take a moment to sincerely thank you for your support of your children and their teachers. We realize how difficult this shift has been, and the challenges that your families might be facing. Now more than ever, I hope you know how much we appreciate your support.

As you know, the 2019-20 school calendar has been significantly altered for the remainder of this school year. Parents can go to the SPCSC website and click on “Spring 2020 Calendar” for details. It has been updated to ensure that SPCSC meets the 160 day instructional day requirement placed on us by Governor Holcomb. With the 20 instructional day waiver we feel that we can continue providing a curriculum to our students that will help prepare them for this coming fall.

With the many challenges we’re all facing throughout this COVID-19 scenario, our *school’s learning objectives* for this spring include:

- 1: Keep learning moving forward, and**
- 2: Be fair to kids (and their families.)**

This is far from an ideal situation, but with your help as parents we will continue to meet our student’s needs.

The goal is for our students to remain engaged in learning by showing successful participation in the 4th quarter lessons. Students are expected to stay on track throughout this home learning experience and demonstrate that they are ready to advance to the next grade level come this fall. Students who were struggling at the end of the 3rd grading period have already been identified and many of those conversations have begun between teachers, myself, and the child’s parent/guardian.

There are still many unanswered questions that we are working on. Sharing important information is imperative for parents/families, and while we will continue working to answer those questions, here are some that we feel confident in sharing at this time:

State Testing: All IREAD – 3 and ILEARN testing: has been cancelled for this spring.

Food Pick Up: South Putnam Community Schools will continue providing meals to student families every Monday from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. through May 11. If parents have questions about the breakfast/lunch program they can contact myself or Mrs. Lori Boyce. lboyce@sputnam.k12.in.us

Home Learning Packet Pick Up and Drop Off: Teachers and parents are to be in continuous communication with regard to student needs. Parents can drop off completed packets every Monday morning 8:30 am – 11:30 am. More importantly, talk with your child’s teacher about scheduling drop off conflicts.

In coordination with Mr. Bernhardt and the South Putnam Community School Board, we will soon be able provide parents/guardians with the following information:

1. When student personal items and other materials can be picked up. Right now, our focus needs to be on continuing learning and (physical distancing.)
2. When report cards / certificates / awards will be distributed.

As I write you this informational letter, I cannot help but shake my head in disbelief knowing this is where we are right now. I feel so sorry for our students as I know how much being in school means to them. For our 5th graders, as much as they “think” they are ready to leave us, they need to know we’re not ready for them to leave us just yet. I do know that we love each and every one of our students and we deeply miss them.

On a bright note, this distance learning has managed to help all of us come up with new and exciting ways to engage and communicate with students. I hear so many great stories about how teachers and students are working together in either making the best of a strange situation and in some cases loving learning in another format. Nothing can replace the time that teachers are in front of their students, but with your help, we will once again rise to the occasion.

I will continue to inform you of any new information, (possibly this week.) If you ever need to talk with me, please give me a call. I am here for you and your children.

Stay Safe

Sincerely yours,

Todd Gowen
Principal