

SOUTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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April 28, 2020

Dear South Allegheny School Community,

The Coronavirus Pandemic has changed our lives and how we conduct business in a way we could have never imagined. School Districts in all 50 states have closed as we prioritize the health and safety needs of our families. The South Allegheny School District has continued the education of our students by working through online services, utilizing our students' own home devices and online access, and for those who do not have access, we are providing paper work packets which are disseminated and collected weekly. We are doing all we can in order to provide a continuance of learning for our South Allegheny students, but we also understand that not all of our students have the tools they need to truly obtain the best education through a Distance Learning Model. Many are sharing one device per household, with parents also needing to work from home, and although we are overcoming these obstacles, we know we must do better for our students and families now and in the future.

Our plan to initiate a 1:1 Chromebook program was to begin this upcoming school year, included rigorous professional development for all faculty and staff to become well-versed in this method of educating students, and was a multi-year implementation model by grade span in order for us to properly budget and prepare for this initiative. With this pandemic continuing and changes occurring on an almost continual basis, it now appears that it is crucial that our timeline be condensed and streamlined in order to best provide our learners with what they need to effectively manage Distance Learning. Unfortunately, as of right now, we do not have enough Chromebooks for all of our students. Our District is comprised of approximately 1500 students and we do have around 800 devices currently, as we have done our best to provide as many opportunities for our students as we can, written and obtained grants for additional devices, and implemented a variety of computer science and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) courses, but out of those, approximately 400 are three or more years old and are nearing their end of life.

The South Allegheny School District is seeking donations to help purchase approximately 900 additional Chromebooks to provide equitable online learning opportunities for all of our students and to ensure that we are ready for unknown situations which may arise in the fall with a resurgence of the Coronavirus, or an inability to bring all of our students into our school buildings at one time because of social distancing restrictions. The cost is far beyond our budget and we are reaching out for donations to assist with this goal. We want to ensure that every child has the resources and tools necessary to be successful as we continue on what looks to be a longer term non-traditional learning model.

Donations will be greatly appreciated by:

Check payable to the South Allegheny School District at 2743 Washington Boulevard, McKeesport, PA 15133

Electronic Donations can also be made at the following link:

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=5EPW6FKZE53X8&source=url

Thank you for supporting the future learning, health, and success of our students.

Sincerely,
Dr. Lisa N. Duval
Dr. Lisa N. Duval
Superintendent



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