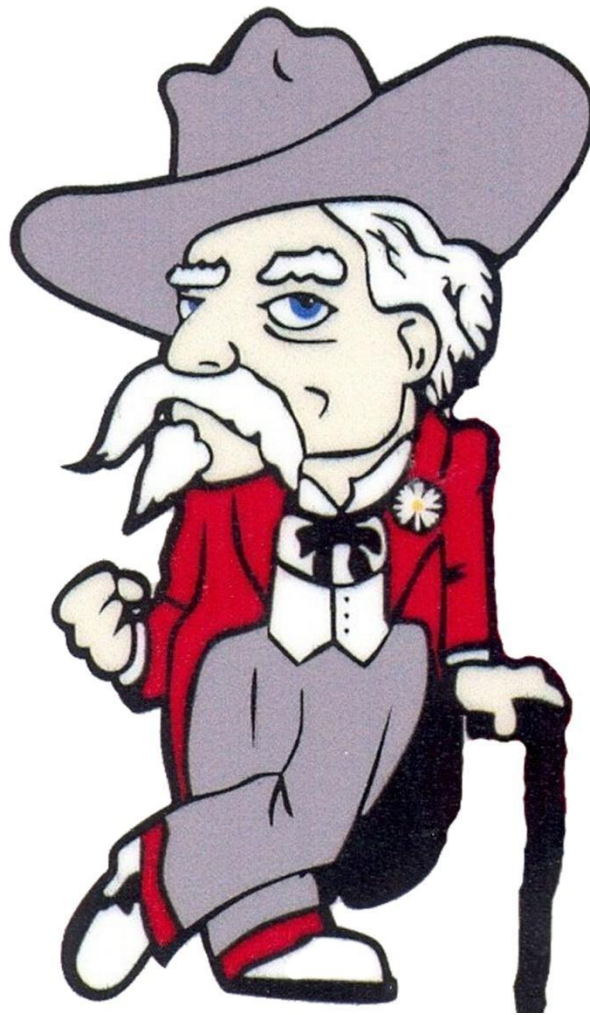


A Plan for Continuity of Instruction for Distance Learning In the Southland C-9 Schools



July 2020

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Introduction to Southland's Continuity of Instruction for Distance Learning Plan

State legislature passed SB604 providing districts the ability to use an AMI (Alternative Methods of Instruction) plan on days when there is an unexpected school closure. The AMI Plan provides opportunity for our students to continue relevant learning activities in the event of inclement weather or other emergency days when conditions prevent us from being in session.

We are committed to making sure that our students continue to experience the care and commitment of our faculty and the routine of daily learning, even in the event of a school closure. We acknowledge that our approach to distance learning cannot completely replicate the special interactions that happen when school is in session (the invaluable social interactions, real-time, in-person feedback, extracurricular events, etc). However, we do contend that high quality learning can occur from a distance.

The purpose of this document is to describe the actions Southland Schools will take to continue instruction in the event of an extended campus closure. We seek to accomplish these goals:

- Live student-teacher contact time
- Online content delivery
- Online monitoring of student progress and student assessment

While we hope that it will not be necessary to implement this plan, it is important in the event of closure to describe the channels of communication and online platforms that will be used and the roles and responsibilities of faculty and students in support of student learning.

How will Southland schools communicate with parents and students in the event of extended school closure?

Southland will continue to use the same channels of communication it employs for day-to-day communications with parents, students, and staff.

Southland will maintain general information for the public on its website, southland@k12.mo.us Email will be used for all major communications and announcements. Faculty will also use email to communicate, although they may use other platforms as well. Each student is given a school email account. Google GSuite (including Gmail, Docs, Classroom, etc.) will continue to be used by many teachers.

How will Southland Schools ensure that students have access to these tools from home?

Southland Schools conducts a survey periodically to determine each student's access to devices and the internet. Southland Schools is prepared to supply students with devices as needed. In the event that a campus closure seems likely, teachers will attempt to ensure all students in K-12 bring their devices and chargers home as needed. Students should be able to access learning through parental devices, phones, etc. as our technology tools are not device specific.

Roles and Responsibilities

Students will:

- Establish daily routines for engaging in the learning activities
- Find a space to work comfortably
- Regularly monitor online platforms (Google Classroom, Gmail, website, etc) to check for announcements and feedback
- Complete assignments with academic honesty
- Meet due dates and timelines for assignments
- Reach out and communicate with teachers if assistance is needed

Guidelines for Parents Supporting Distance Learning

- Establish routines and expectations
- Monitor communications from your child's teachers
- Monitor how much time your child is spending online
- Encourage physical activity or exercise
- Begin and end each day with a check in

Distance Learning Guidelines for Teachers

- Evaluate your students' conditions for distance learning
- Stick with the familiar
- Streamline content and elevate the most essential learning
- Design asynchronous and synchronous learning experiences

Elementary Information

- **Parents should consult the email from their child's teacher for instructions on how to access distance learning resources.**
- The primary tools for communication between parents and teachers will be email, the school website, and Google Classroom.
- Students will have both off- and on-screen learning activities designed to engage students in relevant learning connected to the current curriculum. Teachers will be available to answer questions and assist virtual learners during the class's regularly scheduled time for that subject.
- Learning activities will provide direction to families on how best to support student learning and the level of adult involvement expected.
- When a school campus closure is announced, students can immediately begin distance learning by checking their teacher's website for assignments and directions.
- Grading practices will be the same as on-campus learning and as outlined in our district policy. Students must complete assignments to receive credit. Feedback will be provided through our learning management systems such as ConnectEd and Google Classroom. Parents have access to the Parent Portal to monitor student progress. Progress reports will be provided and shared with parents periodically.

Jr High/High School Information

- The primary tools for communication between teachers and families will be email and the district website.
- The primary tools for communication between students and teachers will be email, Google Classroom, and the district website.
- Teachers will share resources using Google Suite of tools such as Google Docs or Google Classroom, or another online platform chosen for their course (In Sync, StudySync, USA Test Prep, etc.) Resources vary by class but may include links to video, graphic organizers, independent research material via online resources, and reading materials such as ebooks.
- Students should reach out to teachers if they have questions or need assistance with assignments. Office hours will be available for one-on-one conferences during the day and before and after school for parent and student assistance. Teachers will be available to answer questions and assist virtual learners during the class's regularly scheduled time for that subject/class.
- When a school campus closure is announced, students can immediately begin distance learning by checking their teacher's website for assignments and directions.
- Grading practices will be the same as on site learning. Students must complete assignments to receive credit. Feedback will be provided to students via our online learning management systems such as Google Classroom. Parents have access to the Parent Portal to monitor student progress. Progress reports will be provided to parents periodically.

Special Services

- The plan for continuity of instruction is included in students' IEP plans according to guidance from the MO Office of Special Education. Special Education staff will collaborate with regular education teachers to provide accommodations and modify assignments as needed.

