



SOUTH WINDSOR HIGH SCHOOL

Principal
Frank Rizzuto

Associate Principal
Liz Devaney

Associate Principal
Tera Harlow

Interim Associate Principal
Timothy Zeuschner

Director of Athletics
David J. Sytulek

**DREAM
ACHIEVE
INSPIRE**

161 Nevers Road
South Windsor, CT 06074
Phone: (860) 648-5000
Fax: (860) 648-5013



March 18, 2020

Dear SWHS Families,

In the coming days, CT school high schools anticipate receiving additional guidance from the state regarding topics such as grades at the high school level, fulfilling graduation requirements, and for possible insights in how to approach culminating events like graduation in the wake of extended school closures. These topics are all part of the complex landscape we are facing together. Again, I ask for your patience as we work through these items and I will communicate more information once determinations have been made.

While our staff is working on additional information regarding distance-learning, I am re-including an excerpt from my March 16th communication to families:

"With the uncertainty of when we will return you may have additional questions. Please know, we are working diligently to provide as much direction to students, teachers, and families while adjusting for the fluid nature of the situation. For now, here is what you can likely expect..."

Students should expect to receive additional academic opportunities in a technological platform over the next few days.

Teachers will make their best effort to provide directions, resources, feedback, and/or to continue the process of learning for their students in a manner that is best for the content they teach.

Students can either communicate directly with their teacher in Google Classroom or can email their teacher to ask any questions related to content or assignment expectations."

I recognize that families and teachers are working tremendously hard with this transition and that additional questions remain about when students should be "logged on," due dates, grading practices, etc. In short, these practices will vary from teacher to teacher and may change again soon as we receive further direction/insight by the state or other sources. I can assure families that we are committed to making this transition as successful as possible, and in as supportive and thoughtful manner to keep education moving forward for students. In reflecting on the bullets above:

At this point, students should have received an academic outreach by teachers via a technological platform. Teachers continue to adjust to the "new normal" and are establishing different routines with regard to providing directions, academic opportunities, feedback, etc. for their students. These items require a tremendous amount of planning. As part of the adjustment, teachers are also determining the best ways to communicate with students and parents/guardians with questions. In many instances, all of the above is occurring while teachers are trying to manage handling family care responsibilities of their own. I appreciate the efforts of both teachers and families during these days of "sense-making."

Spring Sports Update: Earlier today, the CIAC put out the following statement: "These are unprecedented challenges for our schools, and it is of the utmost importance that we provide answers and a structure to support our membership and maintain the possibility of a spring sports experience for our student-athletes," CAS-CIAC Executive Director Glenn Lungarini stated. "CIAC understands the value of providing students a spring sports experience, if possible. However, the health and safety of our communities must remain at the center of our decision making." In short, it appears that the CIAC remains hopeful for some semblance of a spring season. We all do. But I would emphasize to all student-athletes the importance of being braced for the strong possibility of the spring season being cancelled altogether.

I cannot thank families enough for their patience during this time. Likewise, I cannot thank the efforts of our students and teachers in making their adjustments enough as well.

Stay safe and stay tuned.

Frank Rizzuto

Frank Rizzuto, SWHS Principal