

Distance Learning Update

Dr. Ronald G. Taylor | June 22, 2020

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Overview

The purpose of the brief review is to bring the public up to date with our Distance Learning Methodology including:

- + Brief review of the circumstances and guidelines for distance learning including:
 - Initial Emergent Requirements;
 - Governor mandated extension of closure;
 - Health Related Closure Update;
 - Instructional Planning Process;
 - Technology distribution;
 - Food distribution;
 - Mental Health Support
 - Survey Results
 - Parents & Students
 - Next steps



Initial Emergent Response

In February 2020, we began to shift our Monthly Digital Newsletter from a focus of Departmental Updates to a Weekly Update of the Novel COVID 19 Coronavirus.

- + Beginning on February 3, 2020 we began to share information digitally with families on what we were learning about COVID-19

NJDOE Coronavirus Update – February 3 2020

February 3, 2020 By [SOMSD Webmaster](#)

Last Updated: 02-03-2020 6:06 pm

Download

Description	Preview	Versions
	<div><h3>Guidance and Resources Regarding 2019 Novel Coronavirus</h3><p>The New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health have been working collaboratively to respond with information for school communities on the 2019 Novel (new) Coronavirus that was first identified last month in Wuhan, China.</p><p>Although this virus is understandably a cause for concern, it is important for New Jersey residents to know that the risk to the general public remains low. However, it is necessary for school nurses and other school officials to remain up-to-date with the latest information on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) so they can disseminate timely and accurate information to staff, students and families.</p><p>As of January 28, there were five confirmed cases in the United States and no confirmed cases in New Jersey.</p><p>The Department of Health's 2019-nCoV webpage contains extensive information, including:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information for K-12 Schools• Frequently Asked Questions• Travel Information:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Travel Advisory from the U.S. Department of State◦ Travel Health Alert Notices (English and Chinese)◦ CDC Travel Advisory to avoid all nonessential travel to China (Districts with travel plans should continue to monitor the websites for updates and alerts.)<p>To ensure the public has access to factual information to alleviate fears and dispel rumors, the New Jersey Department of Health has established a hotline (1-800-222-1222) to answer questions about the 2019 Novel Coronavirus. Operated by the Poison Information and Education System, the 24-hour public hotline is staffed with trained healthcare professionals and can accommodate callers in multiple languages.</p></div>	



Initial Emergent Response

- + We continued to share information with both the community and the staff. Including CDC protocols and age appropriate ways for parents to speak with their children about COVID-19.

As a Matter of Fact!

SPECIAL EDITION: SOMSD Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates

SOMSD Updates Regarding the Coronavirus: February 28, 2020

Dear South Orange & Maplewood School District Community,

We continue to monitor the alerts from the Center for Disease Control ([CDC](#)) about the possibility of the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) within the United States. We are following the current guidance posted by the [New Jersey Department of Education](#) and the [New Jersey Department of Health](#). Please note that at this time we have no immediate concerns about this virus in our schools.



However, as recommended by the CDC, which has encouraged communities to develop specific measures to prepare themselves to respond to any potential local transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19, our District will be working to update our existing Emergency Management Procedure (which currently addresses prevention of contagious diseases) to address any possible disruption to our schools that a pandemic would cause. We are working with township health departments, central administration, technology, facilities, curriculum & instruction, health services, and special services to develop a scalable plan to address the continuation of instruction for our students should a shutdown be required.



Initial Emergent Response

- + As the concern for health and safety began to grow we established communication protocols with our local health departments and began to give more specific direction for what symptoms are and what to do in our schools if anyone has them.



Like f t p <> Embed 1 5,031

As a Matter of Fact!

SPECIAL EDITION: SOMSD Coronavirus Update: 3/5/20

SOMSD Updates Regarding the Coronavirus

Dear SOMSD Community,

We want to provide some additional updates regarding the Coronavirus. As we shared, we are monitoring this situation very closely and are working with various partners to ensure that we provide our community with relevant updates.

The COVID-19 situation is fluid and information we receive from various sources including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NJ Governor's Office, NJ Department of Health (NJDOH) and our local township health departments are updated daily. It is our goal to offer our community with timely and accurate information regarding this situation. Last night, Governor Murphy, announced the first presumptive positive case of Coronavirus in New Jersey. Currently, there are no reported cases of COVID-19 in our District.

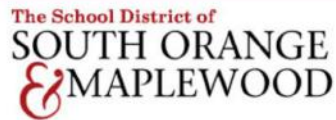
As per previous CDC guidelines, while working with our township health departments (with guidelines from state epidemiologist and NJDOH) we are monitoring a couple of reports for parents/staff who have reported traveling from Level-3 countries (China, Italy, Iran and South Korea).

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the immediate health risk to the



Initial Emergent Response

- + As concern grew exponentially around this matter, we made the decision to utilize two (2) our unused inclement weather days March 16th and 17th to prepare for a two week closure thru March 27th.



A District That Celebrates **Parents**

SOMSD COVID-19 Two-Week School Closure, Effective Monday, March 16, 2020

March 13, 2020 By [Anide Eustache](#)

Important Message from Superintendent Taylor on COVID-19 School Closure

- [Please visit our District Coronavirus page for all updates, communications, and resources regarding COVID-19](#)

March 13, 2020

Dear South Orange & Maplewood School Family,

The School District of South Orange & Maplewood continues to monitor the emerging public health issue with COVID-19, also known as Coronavirus. The health, safety, and well-being of our students, staff, and community members continues to be our main priority.

I have been in contact with our local health officials, Department of Education officials, a network of superintendents, our board of education and others in order to arrive at the most responsible decisions and course of action for the students and families in our school district with respect to the Covid-19 pandemic. While there are currently no confirmed or suspected cases of Covid-19 in our District, recent guidance from the CDC, NIH, local health department, the NJ Department of Health as well as Governor Murphy's announcement yesterday to cancel all events statewide with more than 250 people, make it clear that the most prudent decision is for us to close our schools and transition to distance learning.



Distance Learning/Emergency Closure Planning-

Curriculum and Instruction

- + When it was determined that we would be closing for a two (2) week emergency the immediate concern was for the health, safety and education of our students.
- + It became an 'all-hands on deck' approach. Our Curriculum and instruction Department with Director Bodnar and the Academic Supervisors organized themselves by curricular areas and began working with teachers to establish consistent shared lesson planning as well as Google Classrooms by grade level and school.
- + Once lesson planning was moving forward we also began to plan for distribution of hard copies for any families who were not digitally able to access their Google Classroom.



Distance Learning/Emergency Closure Planning-

Curriculum and Instruction

- + Columbia High School students with their multitude of class schedule possibilities were the early priority for Chromebook distribution.
- + Early Childhood Education, Special Services and Related Services were of course also a very high priority.



Initial Emergent Response

- + We provided a live digital frequently asked question (FAQ) document that answered questions such as-
 - How do you access the activities?
 - Where do you pick up materials?
 - How is attendance taken etc.

SOMSD Distance Learning FAQs

As students prepare to begin distance learning on Wednesday, March 18th, we want to provide some additional information and guidelines to aid in the process. To that end, do know that our teachers have prepared lessons and activities for students to complete from home. All these assignments are currently accessible on Google Classroom, but also available as a hard copy (*if you need a printed copy, please reach out to your child's teacher*). Below, you will find directions on how to access the lessons, how you can communicate with teachers, as well as FAQs we anticipate you may have during this unprecedented national crisis (including questions around food distribution and technology needs).

We, of course, understand that these are unprecedented times and we understand that each family will face its own set of challenges. The lessons that your teachers are designing are intended to maintain contact with course content, *not to overwhelm students with large volumes of independent coursework*. We will continue to provide updates as they become available and remain receptive to any feedback you may have during this time.

Distance Learning FAQs

1. What are Distance Learning Days?

Distance Learning Days refer to days when school buildings are closed, but instructional activities are taking place at home. As shared in previous District communications, learning days will continue until Friday, March 27, 2020.

2. Do the Distance Learning Days count toward the State's requirement of 180 school days?

Our plan does meet the 180-day requirement, but we await further guidance from the Governor and the New Jersey Department of Education.



Extended Closure Response

- + It became apparent after conversations with our County State and Local officials that our two (2) week closure would be extended. That circumstance necessitated a need to add more formal framing around the expectation of distance learning. Including more formal guidelines, schedules, grading, etc. to that end on March 26, 2020.

CLASS SCHEDULES (by Grade Level)

Columbia High School 3-Day Class Rotation:

Rotation begins on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 (with "A" Day)

[A more detailed schedule with dates, times, new attendance protocols and additional guidelines will be emailed to all CHS families/students. Schedules will also be available on CHS google classrooms and the CHS website]

Day A	Day B	Day C
Period 1: 10am - 10:55am	Period 2 - 10am - 10:55am	Period 7 - 10am - 10:55am
Period 3 - 11am - 11:55am	Period 4 - 11am - 11:55am	Period 8 - 11am - 11:55am
Period 5 - 12pm - 12:55pm	Period 6 - 12pm - 12:55pm	Period 9 - 12pm - 12:55pm

Maplewood Middle School Schedule:

½ Day Schedule (30 minute periods) | Rotation begins on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 (with "A" Day)

	Day A	Day B
Grade Level		
6	Period 1 Period 2 - Related Arts	Period 1 Period 2 - Related Arts



Extended Closure Response

- + It became apparent after conversations with our County State and Local officials that our two (2) week closure would be extended. That circumstance necessitated a need to add more formal framing around the expectation of distance learning. Including more formal guidelines, schedules, grading, etc. to that end on March 26, 2020.

GUIDELINES, EXPECTATIONS & REMINDERS

Our Curriculum Supervisors have given teachers a condensed, online friendly curriculum/guide to structure their teaching and student learning. Our focus with distance learning is to develop a systemic process to gather and curate instructionally appropriate resources for all SOMSD students. While we are looking for consistency across the district in grade levels/courses, we also want to ensure that our teachers have more freedom to teach under these unusual circumstances.

Teacher Guidelines:

Teachers will be planning for 4 hours maximum per day (This is across all subjects ELA, Social Studies, Math, Science, Physical Education, World Languages and Fine Arts).

Students will be asked to work independently offline daily with their textbooks and other educational materials.

Teachers will plan explicit instruction using resources such as Webex recorded lessons, Whiteboard, Vidyad, Edu Puzzle, ShowMe (These will vary by grade level and teacher experience comfort level).

Teachers will avoid the requirement to print or upload all assignments.

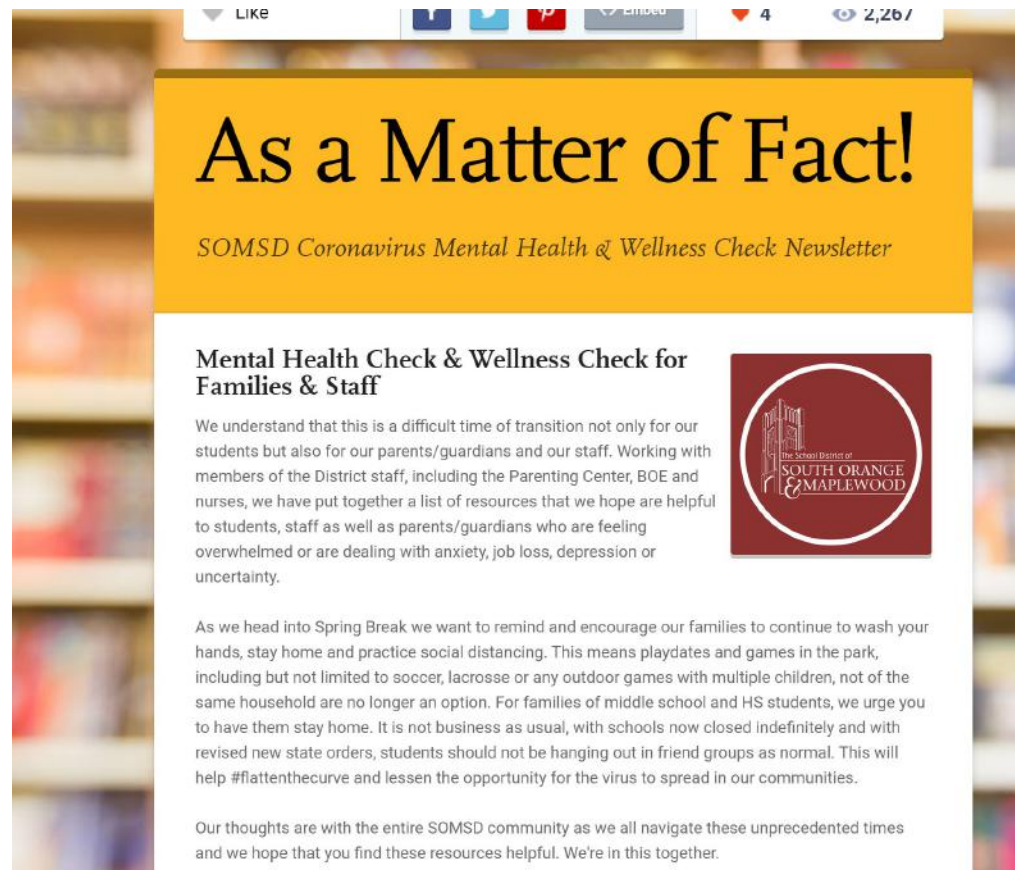
Teachers must maintain and post consistent daily Office Hours (90 minutes per day) for parents/students in need of extra support.

Special education teachers will continue to collaborate with all teachers and case managers, in accordance with students' IEPs to the greatest extent possible. A separate communication has been prepared for families whose children have an IEP.



Extended Closure Response

- + On April 7, 2020 Governor Murphy announced that schools would remain closed indefinitely. We also understood the mental health strain that these circumstances were having on all of us. So on April 4th we dedicated our weekly communication to this very important topic.



Extended Closure Response

- + One of the biggest concern expressed by many families was trepidation around our grading system and how it could harm students if expectations were not thoughtful. On May 4, 2020 we offered this document to the relief of many.

COVID-19 Grading System - 4th Quarter

Student	Course in Progress (CIP)	Pass (P)	Letter Grade
The fourth-quarter grade would raise the student's overall grade.			✓
Submitted assignments for the fourth quarter have earned the student a passing grade of 60 or higher, but the fourth-quarter grade would not raise the student's overall grade.		✓	
Submitted assignments did not result in a passing grade of 60 or higher.	✓		



Student Grade Point Averages (GPAs)

Student GPAs for the 2019-2020 school year will be calculated at the end of the fourth marking period. Since the only letter grades that students will receive in the fourth marking period will *improve* their overall grades, their GPA can only go up from the third marking period, not down. A grade of "Pass" will not affect the

Extended Closure Response

- + The New Jersey Department of Education required that Districts submit an Extended Health Closure Plan that memorialized the District's planning for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year.



South Orange & Maplewood School District

NJDOE 2020 School Health-Related Closure Plan



Extended Closure Response

- + One of the highlighted areas of this mandated submission focused on how the District continued to provide opportunities for nourishment to our students. Throughout this crisis Ms. Patricia Johnson and her team have provided nutritious hot meals to hundreds of students daily. In some cases we deliver to the homes of families in need.

Food Services

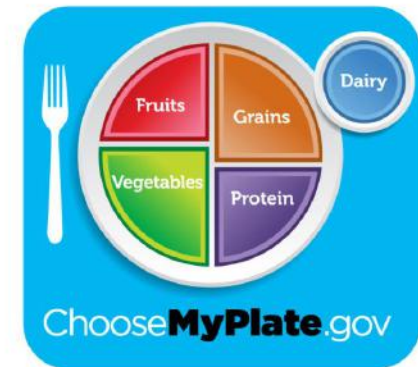
Ms. Patricia Johnson

Supervisor of Food Services

e: pjohnson@somsd.k12.nj.us

p: (973) 762 - 5600 ext 1000

Studies have proven that children who eat a hearty breakfast and lunch are more focused and peaceful in their studies and social settings.



The National School Lunch Program, established in 1946, provides federal support to schools that serve USDA approved meals to their students. This support is provided both financially and in the form of surplus foods. Since the National School Lunch Act was enacted in 1946 over 180 billion meals have been served to children across the country. In the 2000-2001 school year alone approximately 8,000 schools -- 27.4 million children -- participated.



Extended Closure Response

- + One of the highlighted areas of this mandated submission focused on how the District continued to provide opportunities for nourishment to our students. Our Parenting Center has leveraged its resources to offer tens of thousands of dollars in food security support to families in our District.

Parenting Center's COVID-19 Family Food Support Initiative Secures New Partners and Raises more than \$30K to Support SOMA Families

April 30, 2020 By [Anide Eustache](#)



The South Orange & Maplewood School District (SOMSD), Parenting Center, Family Food Support Initiative which began on March 18, has served more than 500 families, raised \$33,664, and has received overwhelming community engagement to support families during the SOMSD school closure and Covid-19 pandemic.

Since its inception, the Center has received an overwhelming response from the community. Karen Weiland, Director, Parenting Center, shared, "It's really amazing since we began this initiative, we have had close to 1,000 community members donate food or funds to our family support food program."

The Center initially partnered with Morrow Memorial Church and Our Lady of Sorrows Food Pantry to lead a food collection drive. Since then, the drive has expanded and is now collecting grocery donations two days every two weeks at the OLS Food Pantry. In addition, they have also partnered with Rent Party and South Orange & Maplewood elected officials to raise money for gift cards to provide to families. Donna Coallier's COVID-19: SOMA Family Support Fund GoFundme campaign was instrumental in beginning the fundraising process.

The Center coordinated food deliveries with SOMA Justice and Cougar Cares who have been supporting food insecure CHS families. More recently, the Center has also partnered with local restaurants, among them Coda, Maplewood, who is donating food to multiple families every Monday, Jackie and Son and Orange Lawn, both in South Orange are also donating food for families. The Parkwood Diner, Liv Breads, and the Rotary Club are now joining the effort. The Community Coalition on Race has printed Covid resource guides to include in the deliveries and MOD Studio of Maplewood is coordinating contributions of child and adult masks for families receiving food support deliveries.



Extended Closure Response

- + Another area to be briefly highlighted is our report of our digital divide. We have issued close to 1,000 Chromebooks and purchased \$25,000 worth of hotspots with the assistance of our Partners at Achieve and the Parenting Center. As of May 21, 2020 the following represent the demographics of those families who responded to our survey and were issued a device.

Summary of Digital Divide Data

Available demographics of device survey respondents (847 families):

- + **American Indian-2**
- + **Asian-41**
- + **Black- 383**
- + **Hispanic-42**
- + **Multi-racial-96**
- + **White-283**



Count of Student Number Row Labels	Column Labels						
	American Indian	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Multiracial	White	Grand Total
Applecore Learning					3	4	7
Full Pay Lunch					3	4	7
Clinton Elementary School		5	26	10	13	36	90
Free Lunch			10	7	1	2	20
Full Pay Lunch		3	14	2	10	34	63
Reduced Lunch		2	2	1	2		7
Columbia High School	1	4	125	10	14	29	183
Free Lunch			49	7	2	1	59
Full Pay Lunch	1	4	61	3	12	28	109
Reduced Lunch			15				15
Jefferson Elementary School		4	16	2	11	27	60
Free Lunch		1	5	2	3	1	12
Full Pay Lunch		3	11		8	26	48
Maplewood Middle School		6	55	8	2	17	88
Free Lunch		2	25	5	1	1	34
Full Pay Lunch		4	25	2	1	16	48
Reduced Lunch			5	1			6
Marshall Elementary School	1		20	1	10	38	70
Free Lunch			8	1	1	1	11
Full Pay Lunch	1		7		9	37	54
Reduced Lunch			5				5
Montrose Early Childhood Center		3	9	1	6	10	29
Free Lunch			3		1		4
Full Pay Lunch		3	3	1	5	10	22
Reduced Lunch			3				3
Seth Boyden Elementary School		3	70	2	8	12	95
Free Lunch			37	1	1	1	40
Full Pay Lunch		1	25	1	7	11	45
Reduced Lunch		2	8				10
South Mountain Elementary School		9	7	3	14	36	69
Free Lunch			3			1	4
Full Pay Lunch		9	3	3	14	35	64
Reduced Lunch			1				1
South Orange Middle School		2	44	4	9	15	74
Free Lunch			13	2	2		17
Full Pay Lunch		2	28	2	7	15	54
Reduced Lunch			3				3
Tuscan Elementary School		5	11	1	6	59	82
Free Lunch			5	1	1		7
Full Pay Lunch		5	3		5	59	72
Reduced Lunch			3				3
Grand Total	2	41	383	42	96	283	847

Extended Closure Response

- + Another area to be briefly highlighted is our report of our digital divide. We have issued close to 1,000 Chromebooks and purchased \$25,000 worth of hotspots with the assistance of our Partners at Achieve and the Parenting Center. As of May 21, 2020 the following represent the demographics of those families who responded to our survey regarding connectivity to the internet.

Summary of Digital Divide Data

Available demographics of 'internet at home' survey respondents (81 families):

- + **Asian-4**
- + **Black- 60**
- + **Hispanic-9**
- + **Multi-racial-4**
- + **White-4**



Surveys



Surveys

To review our practices and plan to improve we have surveyed our community. Our first survey was sent to our parents and CHS Students

1,735 responses



Accepting responses



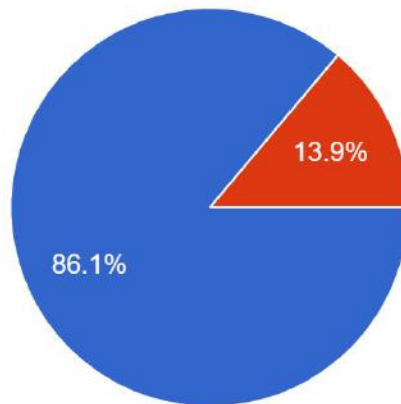
Summary

Question

Individual

Please identify your role in our District

1,730 responses



- Parent/Guardian
- Student

Surveys

To review our practices and plan to improve we have surveyed our community. Our first survey was sent to our parents and CHS Students

How would you describe your distance learning experience?

1,735 responses

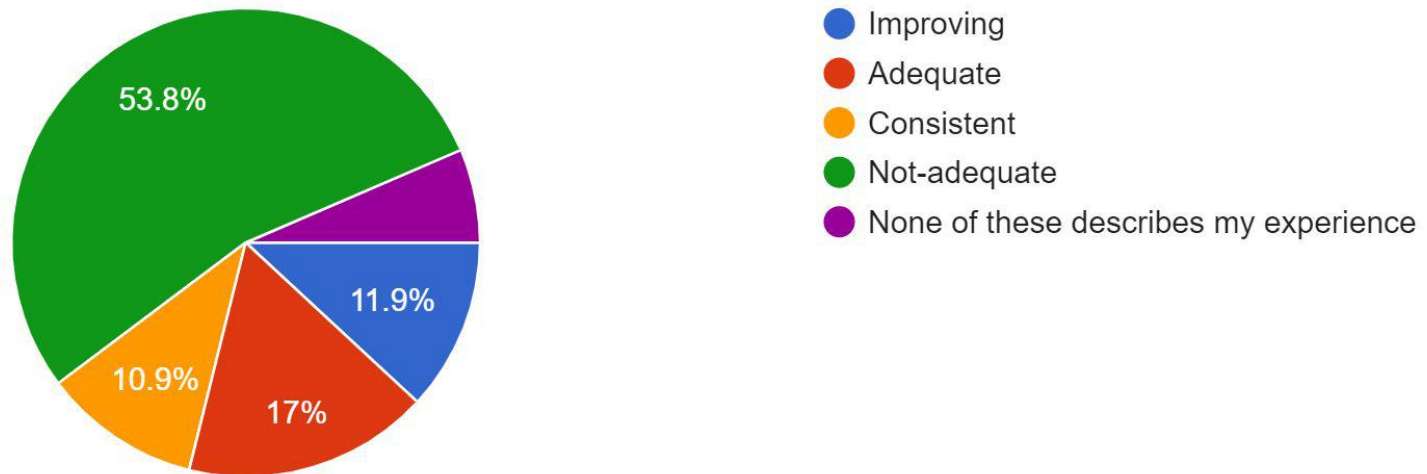


Surveys

To review our practices and plan to improve we have surveyed our community. Our first survey was sent to our parents and CHS Students

How would you describe your feelings on our teacher/student engagement thus far?

1,731 responses

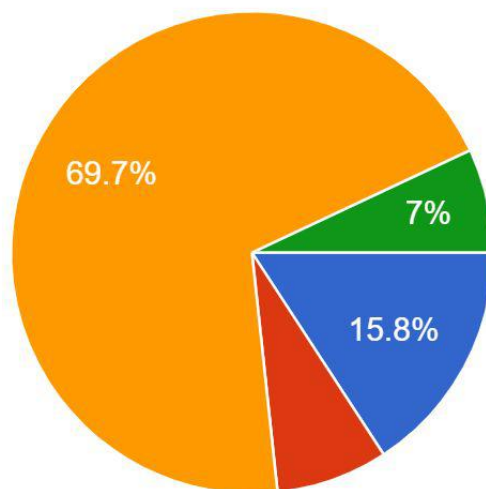


Surveys

To review our practices and plan to improve we have surveyed our community. Our first survey was sent to our parents and CHS Students

What is our district's greatest opportunity for improvement?

1,691 responses



- Less assignments, currently too much pressure.
- More rigor, not enough is being asked of students.
- More direct engagement of teachers.
- More mindful. mental health support opportunities.

Surveys Continued...

CHS Student Leadership Reached out to me and Dr. Morgan regarding the District Supporting their own survey on this issue. We were glad to support them.

559 responses

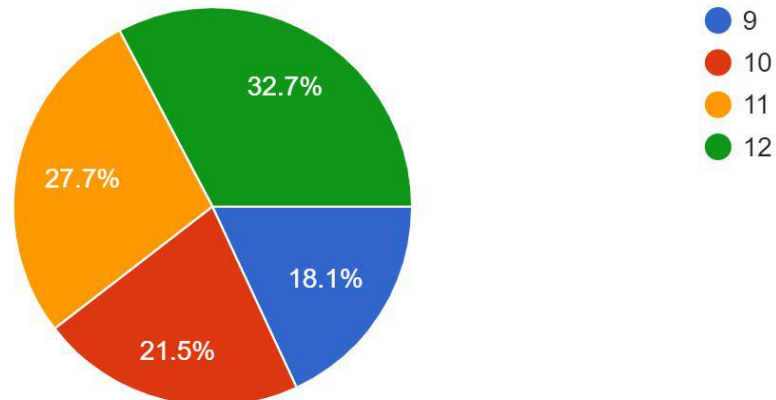
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Summary

Question

1. What grade are you in?

559 responses

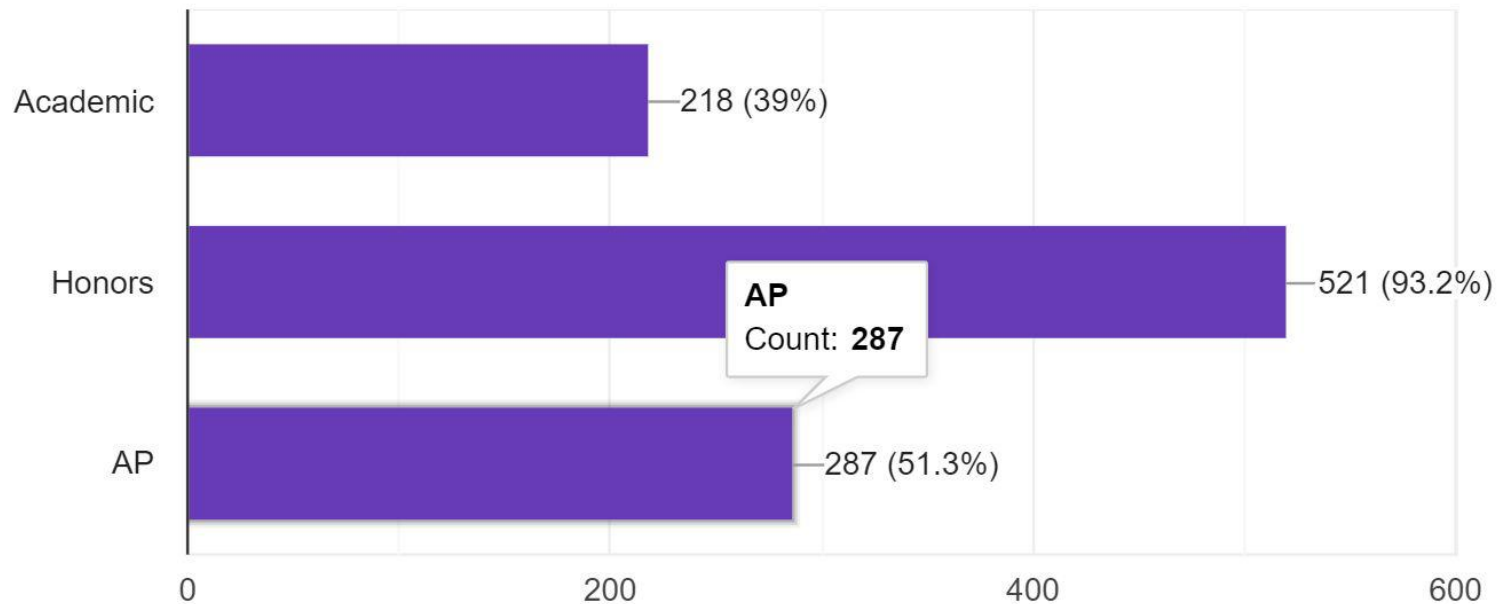


Surveys Continued...

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2. What level courses are you taking? (select all that apply)

559 responses

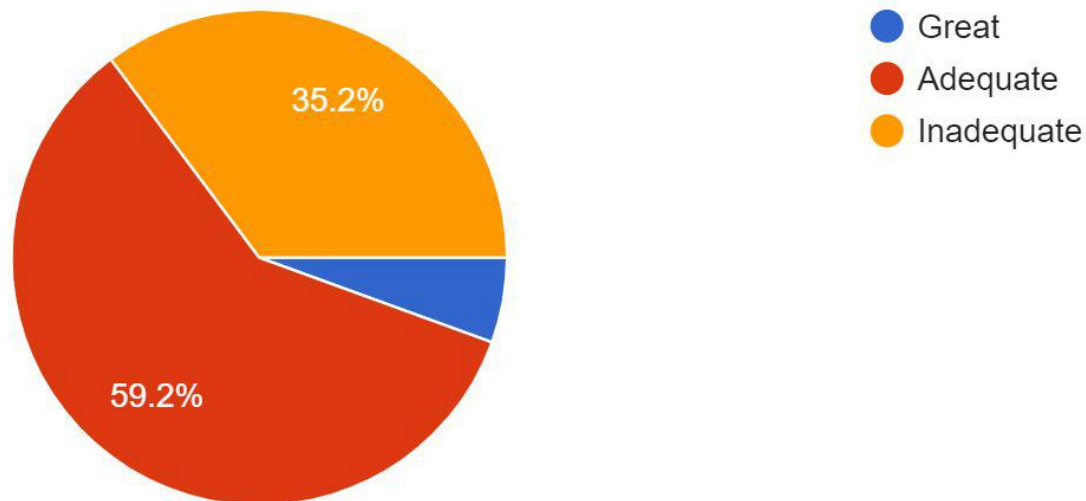


Surveys Continued...

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3. How would you describe your overall experience with online learning in the fourth quarter?

559 responses

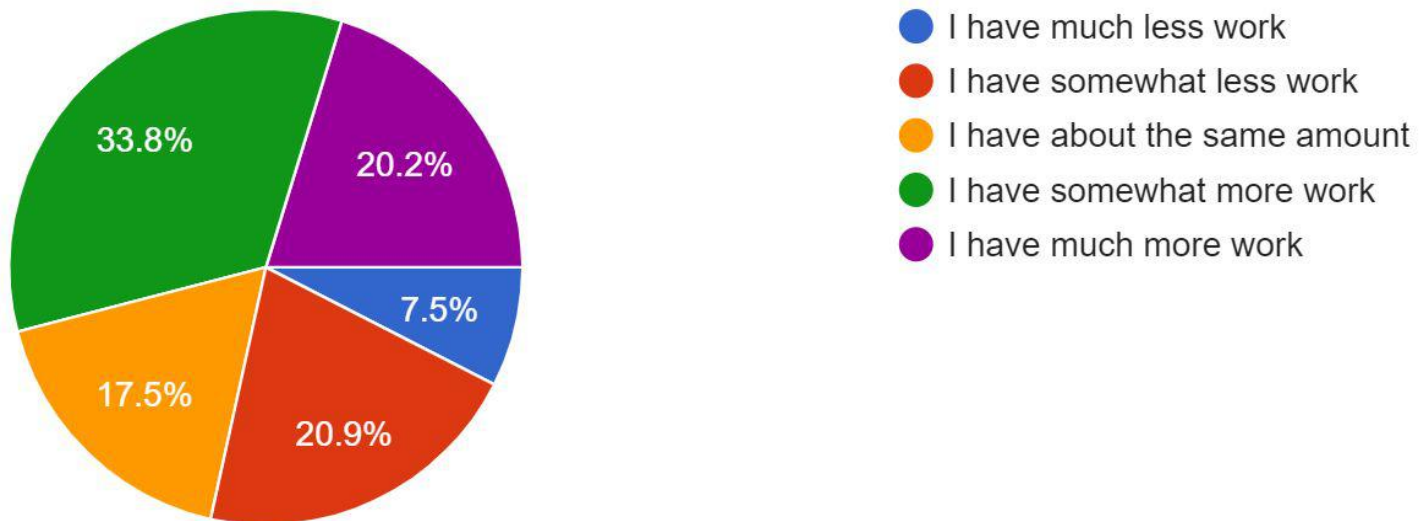


Surveys Continued...

CHS Student Leadership Reached out to me and Dr. Morgan regarding the District Supporting their own survey on this issue. We were glad to support them.

4. How does your current workload compare to your workload prior to distance learning in terms of volume?

559 responses

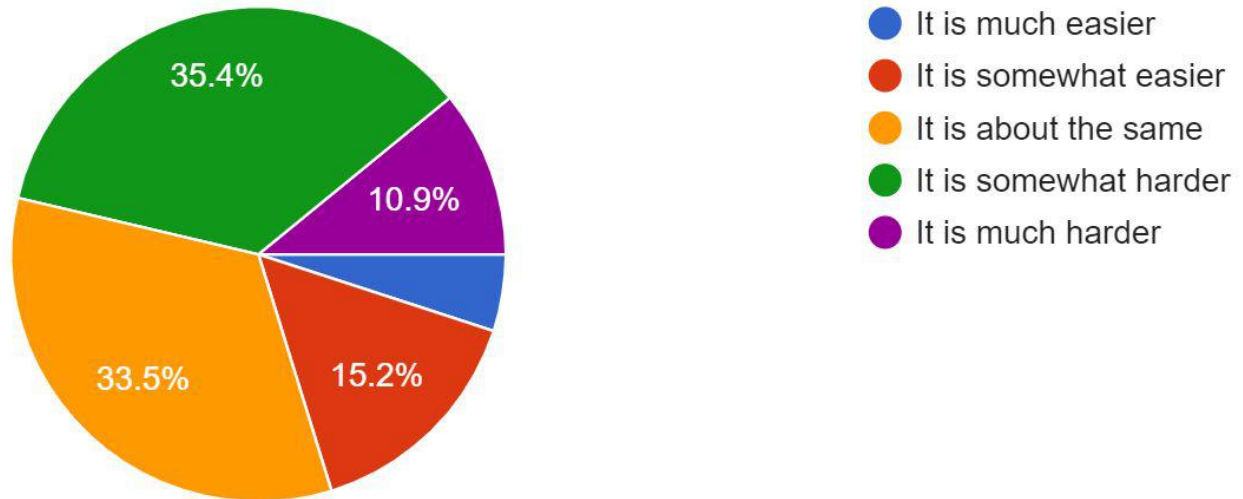


Surveys Continued...

CHS Student Leadership Reached out to me and Dr. Morgan regarding the District Supporting their own survey on this issue. We were glad to support them.

5. How does your current workload compare to your workload prior to distance learning in terms of difficulty?

559 responses

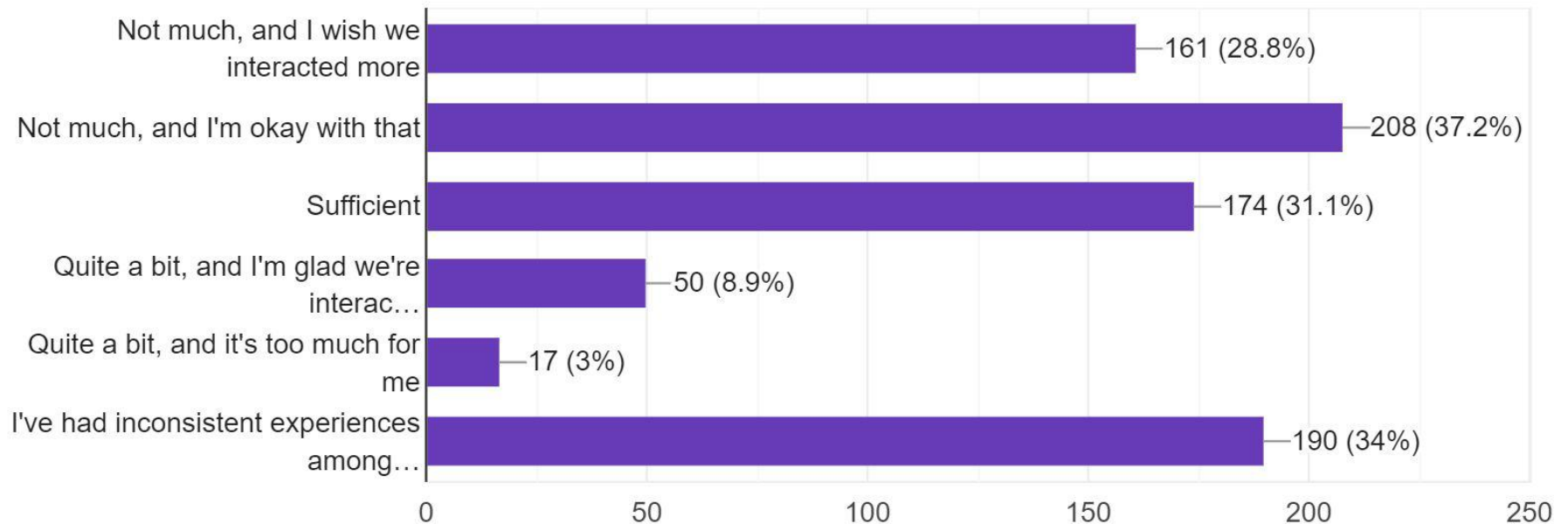


Surveys Continued...

CHS Student Leadership Reached out to me and Dr. Morgan regarding the District Supporting their own survey on this issue. We were glad to support them.

6. How would you describe your level of interaction with teachers? (select all that apply)

559 responses

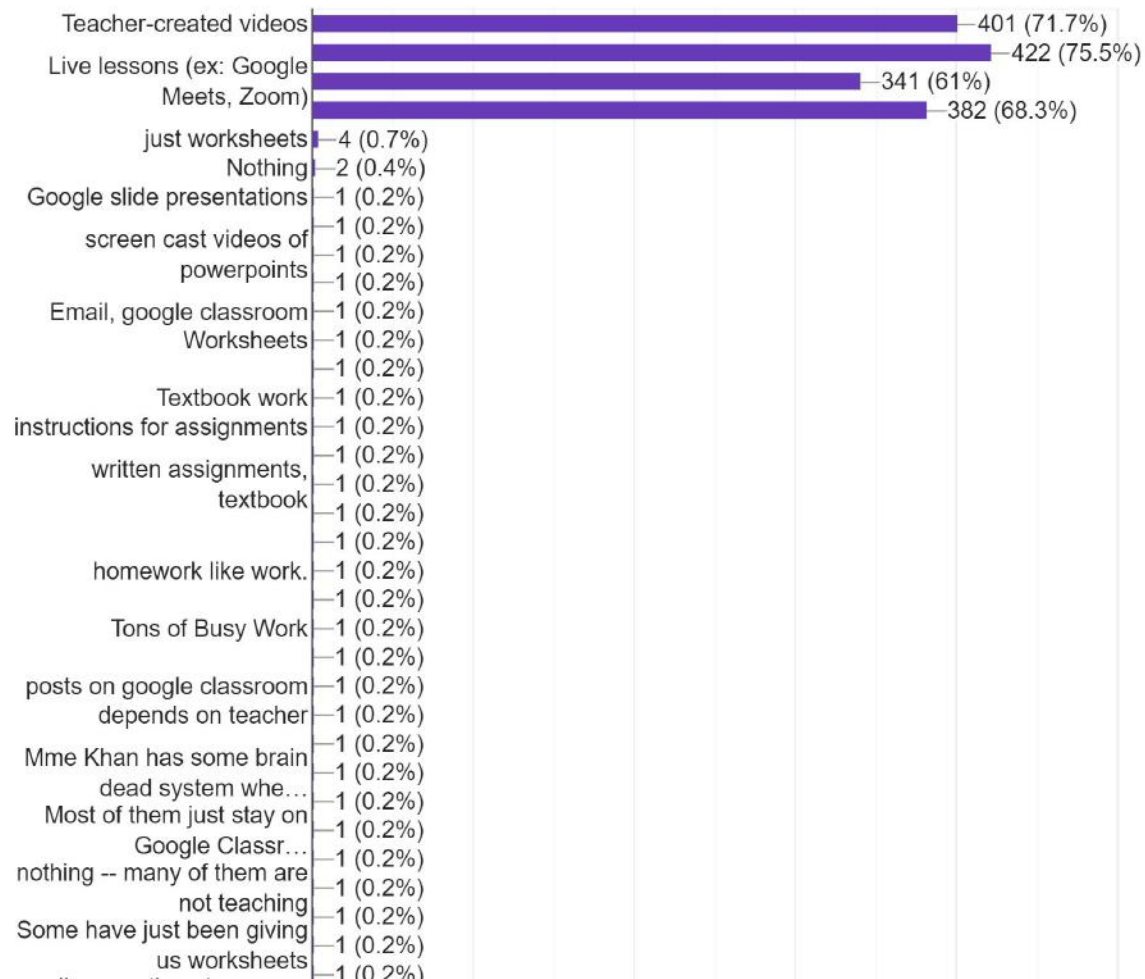


Surveys Continued...

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7. What have your teachers utilized as forms of instruction? (select all that apply)

559 responses

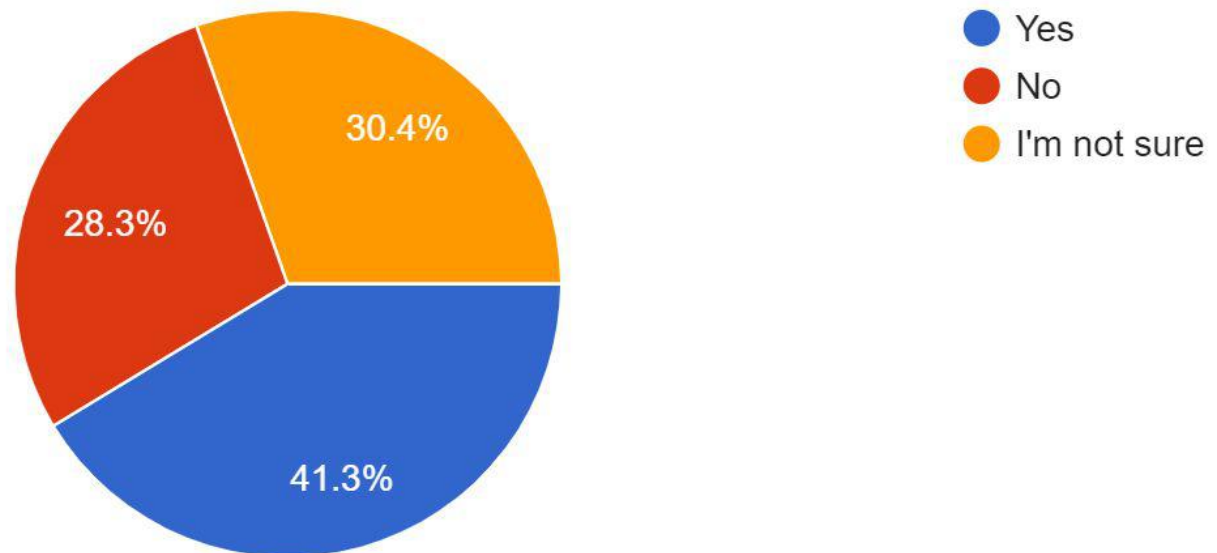


Surveys Continued...

CHS Student Leadership Reached out to me and Dr. Morgan regarding the District Supporting their own survey on this issue. We were glad to support them.

8. Do you feel as though live lessons (Google Meets or Zoom) would benefit you?

559 responses

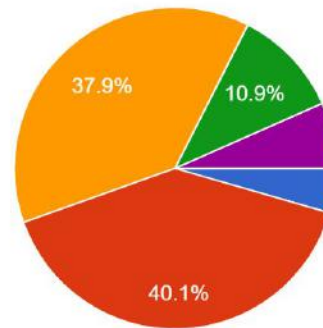


Surveys Continued...

CHS Student Leadership Reached out to me and Dr. Morgan regarding the District Supporting their own survey on this issue. We were glad to support them.

9. How often have you utilized teacher office hours?

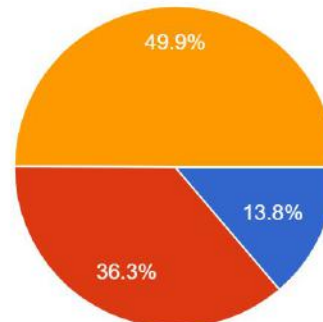
559 responses



- Frequently
- Every so often, as needed
- Never, because I don't feel the need to
- Never, because they are at an inconvenient time
- Never, because I'm not sure how to or when they are

10. Do you feel that you've been learning this quarter?

559 responses



- Yes
- No
- Varies based on teacher

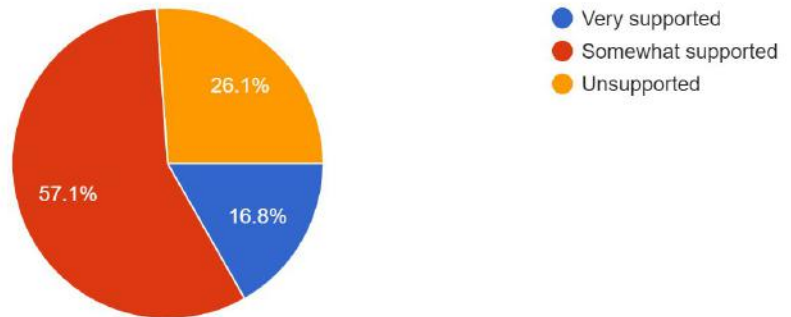


Surveys Continued...

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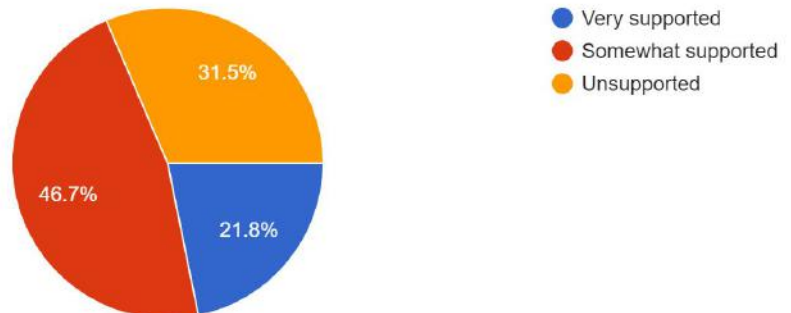
11. How supported have you felt by the school/guidance department in terms of academics?

555 responses



12. How supported have you felt by the school/guidance department in terms of mental health?

550 responses

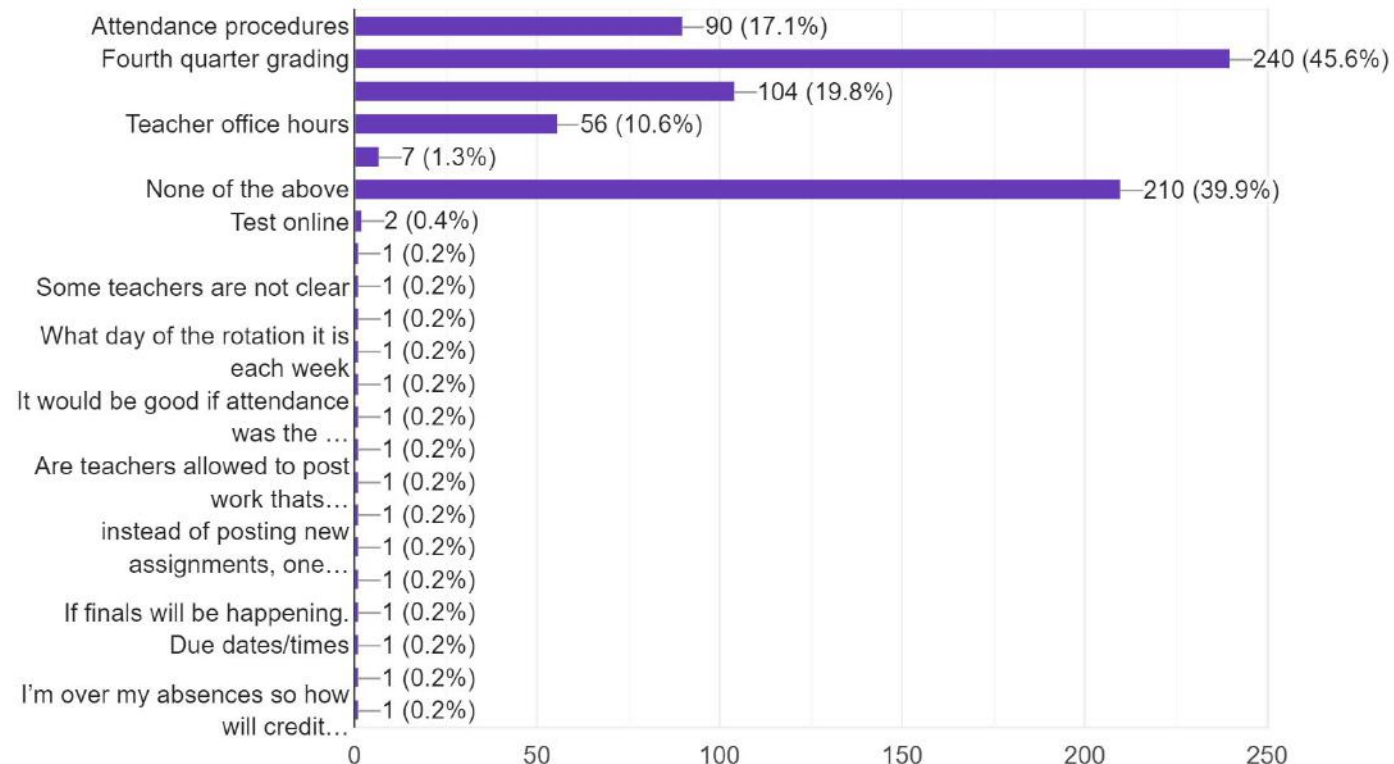


Surveys Continued...

CHS Student Leadership Reached out to me and Dr. Morgan regarding the District Supporting their own survey on this issue. We were glad to support them.

13. Are there any aspects of the district's online learning plan that you need clarification on or are confused by? (select all that apply)

526 responses

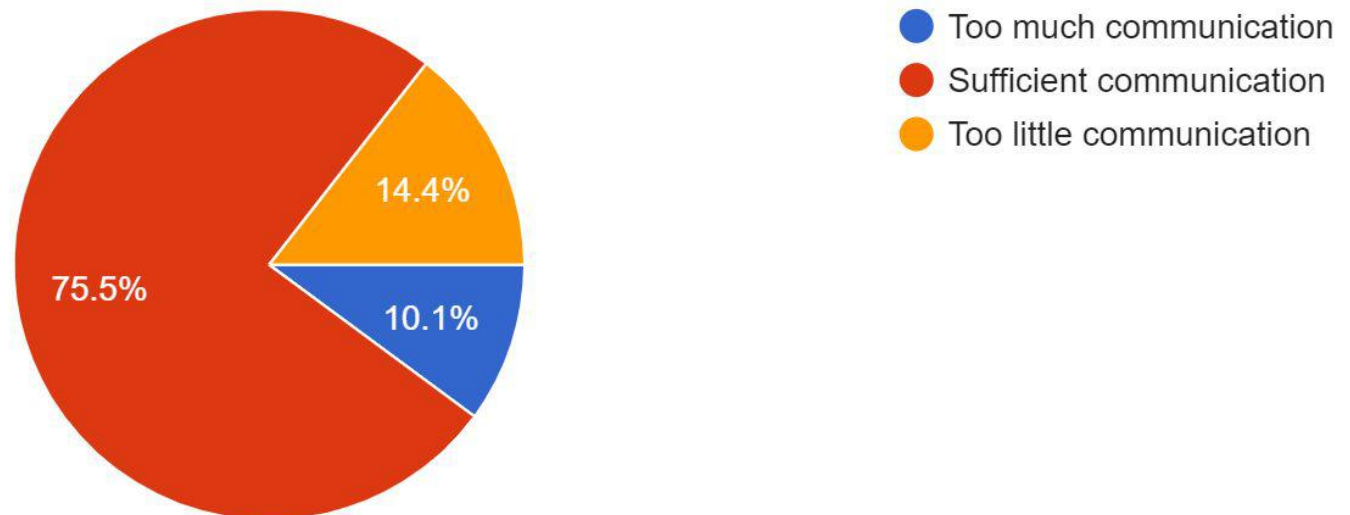


Surveys Continued...

CHS Student Leadership Reached out to me and Dr. Morgan regarding the District Supporting their own survey on this issue. We were glad to support them.

14. What has your experience been regarding district communications? Most of these have been sent to students via student emails and the Remind text messaging system.

554 responses



Plans for the 2020-2021 School Year



Latest Communication...

On May 22nd and June 12th in our weekly newsletter we shared some of our intent for the 2020-2021 school year if distance learning is necessary.

As a Matter of Fact!

SOMSD Newsletter – June 12, 2020 VOL. 1, ISSUE 14

Superintendent's Corner

2020 - 2021 Distance Learning Update

Hello SOMSD Community,

As we detailed in our [May 22nd weekly newsletter](#), please know that the community's concerns have been heard. Our District's School Leadership Team is working tirelessly to prepare for the uncertainty of the fall. We will be offering more details in the coming weeks but I want to clarify, with respect to the subject of the District's plans for distance learning in the 2020-2021 school year.

If a distance methodology or hybrid is warranted, all students will be provided with meaningful age-appropriate live instruction through a much-improved platform. This includes the Special Services improvements below that were realized in the last few weeks-

- **Related Services** - additional therapists have been added to current staffing to expand on services offered for speech, PT, and OT. Contracted therapists (who already have working



As a Matter of Fact!

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Superintendent's Corner

Hello SOMSD Family,

We hope this correspondence finds you and your families healthy and well. As we enter into our Memorial Day Holiday weekend, allow me to be among the first to wish you a restful and rejuvenating time with lots of sunshine and smiles. I am comfortable stating that **none of us** have ever entered this joyous time of year with *more angst about the present or anxiety about the future* (than we are currently experiencing).

We understand and acknowledge the grief that exists in our school community. We are grieving the loss of our shared experiences. We are grieving the loss of our daily face-to-face interactions (our jokes, our debates, our hugs etc.). We are grieving the loss of our culminating activities that some have waited a lifetime for. In short, we miss our school lives...our normalcy. However, some in our community, are grieving the literal loss of a loved one. To all who are coping with that unimaginable toll, we wish you peace.



Specifically...

In preparation for the possibility of distance learning being required in the 2021 school year...

- **Age appropriate live digital instruction will be mandated for all.**



- We have been assessing digital platforms and have earmarked a significant budget line for the procurement of a new Learning Management System via bid by the July 2020 BOE meeting.

Specifically...

In preparation for the possibility of distance learning being required in the 2021 school year...

- **Age appropriate live digital instruction will be mandated for all.**



- We have been reviewing digital platforms over the last few months to ascertain what is needed to provide the optimum learning experience for our students and teachers. This includes age appropriate modifications as well as reporting capabilities for extended accountability.
- Parameters around ‘what participation mandates look like’ for different grade levels and courses are also being finalized.

Specifically...

In preparation for the possibility of distance learning being required in the 2021 school year...

- **Age appropriate live digital instruction will be mandated for all.**



- Our Summer Offerings ESY, CHS Summer School etc. will have mandatory live instruction occurring.
- Our CHS respondents confirmed that many are already experiencing this type of instruction however consistency is an obvious challenge.

Specifically...

In preparation for the possibility of distance learning being required in the 2021 school year...

- **We are preparing for traditional, hybrid and distant learning scenarios. While this may be determined by the NJDOE later in the summer we are preparing to make the decision if need be.**



- ☐ We have performed a wide ranging literacy review of possible hybrid methodology (including international designs).
- ☐ Some of the hybrid designs being considered are-
 - A week/B week;
 - Split session days (3 hrs.);
 - 20%/80%;
 - 25%/75%; and,
 - 4 day/10 day.

Specifically...

In preparation for the possibility of distance learning being required in the 2021 school year...

- **We are preparing for traditional, hybrid and distant learning scenarios. While this may be determined by the NJDOE later in the summer we are preparing to make the decision if need be.**



Hybrid Operational Example-

Based on a 25% building occupancy the additional positions are needed.

- 48 people for wellness checks, contact tracing and bus duty
- 18 transportation aides
- 9 custodians
- 2 cloth reusable masks for each employee and student. If people lose them or require replacements, the district will have to charge. Too costly to supply disposable masks to everyone every day. Just the staff would cost 3.5 million if we did this. These are ordered and have volunteers supplying as well.
- 2 face shields for each staff members (volunteers supplying)
- sanitation wipes for all classrooms
- HEPA filters for room vents
- contactless thermometers (ordered and some are in)

Specifically...

In preparation for the possibility of distance learning being required in the 2021 school year...

- **We are also reviewing the detailed guidance regarding Athletics which includes...**



- Guidance shows we need a person to perform the daily health screenings. They cannot be a coach. This will be an extra expense.
- Guidance also states the district needs to have the bathrooms disinfected. This will be an increase in custodial services.
- The district may have to plan on re appropriating funds to cover the additional expenses.

Other Distance Learning Preparation....

We have requested that the Board approve our 11 month Academic Supervisors to work during the month of July to assist in C&I distance learning design and professional development. We have also asked the BOE to allow for the carry over for vacation leave that exceed contractual limits for 12 month employees to allow for extended preparation.

We are deeply immersed in the operational scenarios and costs that surround hybrid models including-temperature taking protocols, transportation modifications, deep cleaning schedules, modifications of extra-curricular activities, classroom/furniture modifications, dissemination of PPEs, Nursing protocols, etc.

We have budgeted a substantial amount of funds for teacher professional development to occur prior to school. The training will be 3rd party provided and focus on our new distance learning platform as well as a Google GSuite for Education.

Lastly, we are forming a Task Force. It is made up of our SLT Members, as well as our Academic Supervisors, Principals and Teacher representatives. The Task Force will be focusing on the previously mentioned items separated into subgroups based on the component area design of our previously discussed NJDOE closure document, i.e. Instruction, SPED, ELL, Attendance, Facility, etc. Understanding that the NJDOE/Governor's Executive Order take precedence.

**Please visit our COVID-19
Designated Webpage for
the latest updates.**

<https://www.somsd.k12.nj.us/coronavirusupdates>

