



September 2020

Dear SCC Community,

With COVID-19 causing havoc on our normal school year, our district leaders in collaboration with public health have had to address a wide range of challenges associated with delivering face-to-face/remote online instruction, providing meals to students and deciding whether to cancel or postpone district events.

There is no doubt that this pandemic has been a new learning experience for everyone. As we move into fall, I wish to keep our community informed on a variety of topics.

STAFF

I cannot begin to express how proud of our staff I am for adapting so quickly to a new way of school. They have participated in hours of learning and collaboration through face-to-face and virtual platforms in the same ways we expect many of our students to engage in. As part of our online teaching components we have asked all teachers to communicate with their students regularly. We know that many students appreciate hearing from their teachers during a time that is anything but normal. Teachers are also available for parents/guardians at specific times mutually agreed upon with parents. Please reach out to staff any time if you need help or want tips on how students can continue to learn online.

LEARNING

Even in the midst of a pandemic, SCC will continue to hold students to high expectations and to be accountable for learning. Expectations for students in grades TK-12 will remain rigorous and challenging as staff continue to acknowledge and are receptive to social-emotional needs that exist. Families should expect to hear from their principals and teachers regularly as we aim to provide positive relations throughout the learning process.

TECHNOLOGY/CARE

At the beginning of the school year SCC purchased several computers to ensure all students have the technology and internet access they need to engage in online learning activities. We will continue to make sure we provide devices to all families who need them so that their children can access digital learning from home. Families who are in need of technology assistance should contact their respective building secretary who will then put you in touch with the proper assistance.

With these devices comes a responsibility to care for and maintain them properly for optimal use.

Within the first three days of school we have had a half dozen devices at the HS level returned to us with smashed screens. The district will maintain the first repair on the device. Any damage thereafter will be the responsibility of the student as charges will be billed accordingly. Please take care of your devices.

FALL ACTIVITIES/HOMECOMING

Student council is in the midst of planning Homecoming activities. As you would expect, this year will look and feel quite different from past years as long standing traditions like the parade, the pep rally and dance may be altered to accommodate for the COVID pandemic. Please do not rush out to purchase expensive Homecoming attire as plans will be released by student council shortly. We apologize for this inconvenience as we will do everything we can to provide a safe and memorable event.

BUDGET

With regards to the budget, the district is sitting in great shape. We have spent upwards of \$170,000 regarding staffing, personal protective equipment, technology and the like in preparing for the school year. \$120,000 of these funds were designated Federal CARES dollars provided specifically for COVID relief. We will continue to apply for grants in order to assist us with purchasing additional technology, access solutions and other items of need for our students. In addition, we will continue to make the most of every single dollar our taxpayers invest in our local schools. While these are uncertain times, we will move forward in a way that protects the investments of our taxpayers and maintains high-quality educational opportunities for our students.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS & SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY

All board meetings continue to remain open to the general public and we encourage our community members to join us to make your voices heard during the “Communication of Non Agenda Item” portion of the meetings. Community members can find meeting links, meeting schedules and agendas on our district website @ www.scc.k12.ia.us .

By law school districts must host annually a School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) meeting to gain suggestions/recommendations from the general public. These meetings are open to the general public and this year will be held twice a year. The dates are as follows: October 22nd from 6-7:30 in the Middle School Media Center (Rockwell City) and on April 22nd from 6-7:30 in the HS Media Center (Lake City). We hope to see you there!

FACILITIES & BUILDING PROJECTS

South Central Calhoun is in the process of developing a 5-year facility plan to address and maintain our numerous facilities. Additionally, low interest rates have allowed us to fund these projects in a way that reduces our annual payments and ultimately saves taxpayer dollars. Many of these projects will yield extensive dollars in energy savings and will provide better learning environments for all of our students for years to come.

We continue to thank you for your patience, understanding, and flexibility during these unprecedented times. It takes an army to educate our youth and there is no doubt that we will get through this together. Please continue to remain safe and as always GO TITANS!

Sincerely

Brad Anderson

Superintendent