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Sent: Mar. 18, 2020, 10:41 a.m.
To: STAFF- All <staff@spsk12.net>
Subject: Student Assignments and Grading During School Closure

SPS Family:

I wanted to take the time to touch base with all of you during this time. First, I want to thank all of you for preparing so quickly for our school closure and especially to our custodial, food services and transportation departments who have been working around the clock to make sure that our schools are being cleaned and that our students are being fed. We have received so much positive feedback that truly shows why Suffolk Public Schools is family.

We have also received several questions and inquiries regarding student work being graded and potential due dates. For clarification, no student work should be graded while we are out of school. There should also be zero due dates for assignments, and students should not be introduced to new material during our school closure. This is the recommendation to ALL school divisions in the Commonwealth of Virginia from the Virginia Department of Education. This information and more details can be found in the FAQs at the Virginia Department of Education at: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/office/covid-19-faq-031720.shtml.

During this pandemic, we must remember that our students may have additional responsibilities such as taking care of younger siblings while their parents work, that not all students have equitable access to the supports they need to successfully complete graded work, and that there is also increased levels of anxiety due to a break in routine, structure, and everything that is going on in the world. Please make sure you support and empathize with our students during this time.

Thank you to all of our instructional staff that have developed packets, established online activities through Google classroom and our continuity of learning website, and setup office hours to assist our students and families. Not to mention the numerous emails and other forms of communication that I am sure you have received since school has been closed. As I am sure many of you are aware, the Virginia Department of Education has requested a waiver from the United States Department of Education to cancel our Standards of Learning Assessments for the 2019-2020 school year. Nothing is official yet, but we are hoping to learn more information in the next couple of days.

Lastly, we will keep you posted if our school closure has to be extended. If this is the case, you will receive communication from me describing our next steps moving forward. As I promised when I became your Superintendent on October 14, 2019, we will always keep you informed and be transparent in the process for building the best SPS. The core of this philosophy begins with the outstanding people that we have in

Suffolk Public Schools, and I am sure all of you join me in making sure that every decision that we make always keeps kids first!!!

Stay Safe Suffolk Public Schools and remember, we are all in this together.

Dr. JBG3