

Sherman Central School

Home of the Wildcats



Live Online (Remote) Learning Plan

August 12, 2020

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The purpose of this document is to outline Sherman Central School's plan for Live Online Learning to be used in our hybrid model of educational delivery or in case students are not permitted to return to school at any time due to Covid-19. Sherman Central School relied on information from a parent survey that was conducted at the end of June 2020 to gauge our families for their thoughts on live online learning.

Overview

Sherman Central School will conduct a hybrid model of learning in September of 2020 that includes both in-person and live online instruction. This model will ensure that every SCS student can equitably attend classes virtually.

Grades PreK-6 and High Need Special Education Students in All Grades

Students in these grades have the option to ATTEND SCHOOL IN-PERSON MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY. Sherman Central School's goal with online learning is to maintain all normalcy of a typical school year with the only change being the physical location of the student.

On Monday through Thursday, when a student in these grades does not have face-to-face access to their teacher due to social distancing guidelines, they will be placed in a "Zoom Room" to receive instruction. Students in Zoom Rooms will be monitored by a certified teacher when possible.

Students in these grades who decide to remain home for live online instruction will receive an iPad. Students will be directed to use Zoom to attend their classes on the same schedule as those students who are in-person. All students that choose live online learning will receive the same lesson at the same time as the student who is in-person. Grading will also be the same for in-person students or those who choose the live online model.

The district is currently assessing all students for access to high speed internet. If a student does not have access to high speed internet, the district will provide MiFi devices so students can attend their lessons and adhere to their schedule.

Grades 7-12

Students in grades 7-12 will be provided with online learning Monday through Thursday. Sherman Central School's goal with online learning is to maintain all normalcy of a typical school year with the only change being the physical location of the student. Therefore, the following policies will be in place during online learning:

- All students will have a live online instruction schedule they will follow.
- Attending your classes on Zoom at the scheduled time is mandatory. Attendance will be taken for each class.
- Video feeds on student iPads MUST be turned on and must remain on throughout the lesson or the student will be marked absent.
- Grading will be conducted as it was prior to the pandemic. Students will be required to adhere to the policies of the student handbook.

Students in grades 7-12 WILL ATTEND SCHOOL IN-PERSON ON FRIDAY of each week. Students will use these Fridays to meet in-person with each of their teachers, take assessments, conduct any in-person social/emotional counseling that is needed, and conduct classes with their special area teachers.

SCS LIVE ONLINE INSTRUCTION (Remote) PLAN

1. Digital Services

All students in grades K-12 will receive an iPad to be used for educational purposes, whether in-person or for remote learning. According to data received from our SCS parent survey, 86 percent of our families have reliable high-speed Internet access at home. For those who do not have access to reliable high-speed Internet, please contact the school. The district is making investments in wireless hotspots to provide families with this service. The district will work with families who need this service.

2. Instructional Delivery

After conducting our parent survey, it is clear that families would like a simple instructional delivery platform for their children. The district is determined to keep these platforms at a minimum whether students are learning in-person or through live online learning. The following platforms are permissible by teachers during the crisis:

- Google Classroom
- Kahoot
- Brainpop
- Zoom for live recorded lessons (Flipped Classrooms)
- Videos/Youtube

Also, it is clear, especially in grades 7-12, that specialized platforms are necessary to deliver instruction.

Building Closure Plan

In the case the building is closed for any reason, the district will make every attempt to simplify Learning Management Systems (LMS) for students and their families. The district will focus on Google Classroom and the Remind App for special education students. All assignments will run through Google Classroom.

If the district is forced to go 100 percent live online learning, teachers will spend the first several lessons reviewing technology, including Zoom, establish schedules for students (will be similar to their schedule for in-person instruction), and make any modifications necessary. DAILY ATTENDANCE WILL BE TAKEN by teachers for each class period. Student cameras MUST BE TURNED ON throughout the entire lesson for students to be considered present.

Professional Development Plan

Teachers will receive professional development in the platforms listed above this summer. The district will work in conjunction with BOCES to schedule training in August.

The district is also exploring online training for parents on the LMSs listed above. The district plans to make these trainings available on demand for parents to assist their children with instruction.

3. Scheduling, Attendance, and Accountability

In-Person and Remote Learning

All classes will be broadcast live via Zoom. Therefore, any student who is learning remotely will have the same lesson as those students attending in-person instruction. Students that are receiving instruction in the home must log onto Zoom at the scheduled time. Attendance will be taken for all students that are in-person and learning remotely. All class materials will be posted in Google Classroom so all students can participate equally. Student schedules will be accessed in PowerSchool.

Expectations for Live Online Attendance, Grading, and Instructional Delivery

Students receiving live online instruction will have the same schedule as students who attend in-person instruction. All students are accountable for attendance, follow the student handbook, and receive grades in accordance with school and teacher policies. If any student violates attendance policies, the district will use the student handbook as a guide to address the situation in accordance with the code of conduct. The code of conduct is for all students, whether in-person or learning remotely.

Communication of Expectations

Teachers will develop syllabi for their courses that outline the expectations. The district will also send home letters to families. A copy of the student handbook must be signed by the student and the parent/guardian (just as in the past). The district will also hold parent forums to communicate these guidelines. All information will be published on the school website, www.shermancsd.org.

4. Parent/Family Professional Development

The district will provide families with professional development on the LMSs the district will incorporate. This professional development will serve useful for in-person and live online instruction. The district will attempt to provide or make video tutorials for families to better use the technology and understand the LMSs.

5. Equity

Addressing Equity

The district intends to regularly assess equity for all through the use of family and student surveys. The district will monitor attendance and grading of all students. The district will also continue its Student Services team meetings to discuss all at risk students who are falling behind academically, emotionally, behaviorally, and socially.

Home Access

The district has already determined that approximately 85 percent of families have access to high speed internet. For the remaining 15 percent, the district will provide

hotspot connectivity so students can complete coursework in the same, equitable manner as students attending school in-person.

When at all possible, teachers will use electronic means to deliver and receive school materials. When paper is the only way, the district will deliver materials once per week to student homes.

6. Special Education, IEP and 504 Plans

Full Implementation of IEP and 504 Plans

SCS plans to conduct in-person instruction for all high needs special education students. SCS will fully implement all IEP and 504 plans whether forced in-person or online instruction is taking place. The special education department will conduct annual reviews for each student and determine goals for the year. Consultant teachers will attend core classes of their assigned students. All special education students will follow a schedule for their classes. The Special Education Department will hold meetings to review and discuss state/federal guidance. This information will then be disseminated to the faculty.

Live Online Learning for Special Education Students (If Needed)

Special education students that are forced into live online learning will have similar expectations to general education students. Teachers will communicate clear expectations and accountability measures. Students will have a regular schedule they must adhere to. Grading will be conducted as it was prior to the pandemic. If a student does not attend, the teacher will contact the Student Services Team for further assistance and intervention.