



PINE BLUFF SCHOOL DISTRICT

Barbara J. Warren, Superintendent

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Outstanding Academic Achievement for ALL Scholars

October 2, 2020

Good afternoon Pine Bluff School District Community:

Thank you for your patience during the recent closing of Southwood this week due to COVID-19 cases and exposure. We have been blessed that a minimal number of students were affected, with only 1 student currently positive. However, we have had a number of positive cases among our staff. We are continuing our efforts to make sound decisions regarding the safety of our students and staff. For that reason, I write with an update on the status of Southwood Elementary.

Southwood **WILL NOT** have face-to-face instruction on campus the week of October 5-9. Southwood Elementary School will continue to operate with virtual instruction ONLY for the week of October 5-9. This will apply only to the Southwood campus. All other campuses will be open for instruction. *Southwood will resume face-to-face instruction on October 12, 2020.* The expectation is that teachers and students are still engaged in teaching and learning activities during this time. During this time, we will continue our ongoing sanitizing efforts and extend our evaluation of the air filtration system. We want to do all we can to make certain that Southwood is safe.

Southwood parents, if your student does not have access to their device, is having technical difficulty, or challenges with connectivity, please contact your student's teacher ASAP. We want to ensure that all students have access to their learning tools. Please listen for communication from Principal West and teachers as we keep you informed about next steps for supporting our scholars during this time.

SPECIAL NOTE: Please note that the lunch pick-up location will change for Southwood face-to-face students. Southwood face-to-face students will join the regular elementary virtual students for meal pick-up on the Belair Campus. So, next week, Southwood face-to-face students can pick up their meals at Belair with the rest of the elementary virtual students. The schedule for elementary meal pick-up is Monday and Wednesday from 10:30 am-12:00 pm. For clarity, your student will pick up two days of meals on Monday and three days of meals on Wednesday.

We know this is a trying time for everyone. Please know that we are not taking these major decisions lightly. We stay committed to the safety of our students and staff. Openness and transparency are priorities in our communication with you. Thanks again for your continued support and patience.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Warren, Superintendent