



# Sisters Elementary School

“Home of the Outlaws”

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Joan Warburg  
Principal

April 20, 2020

Dear SES Outlaw Students and Parents,

Congratulations on completing the first week of Distance Learning! I know that it was a huge learning curve for all of us as we learned how to navigate new tools for learning. Our goals last week were to review prior learning, practice and learn new routines, and reconnect and engage as a classroom community. I have heard many positives about the class Zoom meetings and other ways students and teachers connected. I appreciate your flexibility and willingness to problem solve with us to get your students' Chromebooks connected and functioning. Thank you for your grace, patience and humor! This week we move into a little more structure and routine.

Please remember that Distance Learning is not intended to replicate 7 hours of school; our students are not in front of screens all day long in the school building and we don't expect them to spend long hours at home on the computer either. Please remember to prioritize the Teacher Led Learning portions of the week and then fit portions of the rest in as it works in your family's schedule. All of your student's learning will be accessed through the Clever portal; please contact your child's teacher for assistance if needed. Last week teachers asked you which method of packet delivery is preferable for your family- PDF or printed copies.

If you requested printed copies, those copies will be out along the bus lane each Monday, beginning today. They will be out there today from 7:30 am - 3:30 pm and then from 7:30 am - 11:30 am in the coming weeks. THIS week ONLY, we will have materials out 7:30 am - 3:30 pm. We will have staff members available from 8:30 am - 11:30 am to support parent pick-up. Beginning next week, we will have materials available 7:30 am - 11:30 am for parent pick-up.

- We will have six crates / boxes / bins out on the bus lane – one per grade-level and one for individuals with additional materials. Each grade-level crate will have a cone and sign. Please see the Kindergarten crate picture as an example.
- Grade-level crates – Please glove up and take the top packet from the folder with your child's teacher's name on it. If all are identical for a grade-level they will be in a large stack.
- Students who have supplementary work will have their additional work in a 9 x 12 envelope with their name on the top. Your child's teacher will notify parents individually if there is something in that box; please take the contents and leave the envelope. If you have questions or need help with this process, please email <mailto:mcarlene.turpen@ssd6.org> or <mailto:mshannon.beutler@ssd6.org>, or leave a phone message and one of them will contact you.

I am incredibly proud of each of our teachers and supporting staff members. They have been working long hours to ensure that your students benefit from the best possible education that they can provide in this very different setting. They have been learning new technology and figuring out how best to serve you and your students. Thank you for your understanding and support. That is very important to them during this time. Thank you for your continued grace as they figure out how best to juggle their home responsibilities including their own children, with their work. Teacher daily Office Hours from 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm remains the best time for you to contact them and receive support. Please understand that if they receive an email after 3:30 pm, they will be responding the next day. If you have an emergent technology issue with the Chromebook itself, you can access tech support through [chromebooksupport@ssd6.org](mailto:chromebooksupport@ssd6.org).

These are unprecedented times and we know that many of you are juggling a myriad of issues as you navigate this time with your families. SES staff is here to be your partner as we journey together. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any needs or concerns. The best person right now for coordinating these needs is Kate Kuitert, our counselor at [kate.kuitert@ssd6.org](mailto:kate.kuitert@ssd6.org). You can also reach out to me at [joan.warburg@ssd6.org](mailto:joan.warburg@ssd6.org). Our foremost priority is ensuring the mental health and wellbeing of each of our students and figuring out the best way to strengthen our relationships with each student and parent. Now, more than ever, we need one another! To that end, I have attached a letter from Kate to this email with information on some resources that you can access for your family.

It is going to be important in the coming days that we communicate regularly and provide constructive feedback so that we can learn and grow together as a community. To support our connections, I will be hosting a second Zoom Coffee with the Principal on Wednesday, April 22 from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm. This is an opportunity to connect with other parents and share successes and ideas. I hope you will be able to join us. Please use this link to access: <https://zoom.us/j/675751120?pwd=Slhza214SmMraDN3cG5xZllmNTZ1dz09>.

I am honored to be a part of this amazing Outlaw community! Together we are better!

With Outlaw Spirit,

Joan Warburg  
Principal  
Sisters Elementary School

Dear Parents / Guardians of Sisters Elementary,

First off, I miss your children and connecting with SES families. We are all in the midst of many changes and trying to figure out how to navigate our current reality. My role as a School Counselor has changed in how I can connect and support students. However, I am still available and will be working on how to best be here for your children.

Right now, more than ever, we need to be taking care of the social and emotional needs of our children. During this period of uncertainty, your child may be feeling or showing signs of stress or anxiety. Many children may be feeling this even if they are not able to identify or communicate it. These feelings can present as changes in their behavior, difficulty sleeping, and even clinginess. I encourage you to start a conversation with your child and ask some questions about how they are feeling. Help them to name their emotions and express their feelings. Make this a regular dialog in your house. Talking may be what some children need. Others will need different coping tools. Coping tools are unique to each individual and need to be taught and modeled. Please click here for some other coping tool ideas. I don't want to overwhelm families with information right now, but I want you to know you can reach out to me if you have specific needs, concerns, or just need ideas on how to support your child. I have a website you can access with ideas, resources, and information as well.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xZbHGdopQvzXT1ZrojTO3bnHybDvN3k2/view>

<https://sites.google.com/ssd6.org/ses-counseling-corner/home>

As you work to meet your child's emotional needs and support them with their academics, please make sure you are practicing self-care as well. As adults, we can't pour from an empty cup. Take care, and remember to have some grace and patience, not only with your children, but with yourself.

Sincerely,  
Kate Kuitert  
SES School Counselor  
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