

SOUTH WINDSOR HIGH SCHOOL

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www.southwindsorschools.org/SWHS



December 12, 2019

Dear SWHS Families,

The weather in Connecticut during the long winter months is unpredictable and often impacts the school schedule. Effective this school year, the South Windsor Board of Education has approved a districtwide pilot of the *Snow Day Scholars* program. This pilot is intended to allow students to demonstrate independent learning from home during emergency closings. This learning aims to reinforce core academic content in addition to promoting core competencies that contribute to their long-term success: resilience, innovative thinking, personal wellness, and social consciousness. The learning from home will happen with the understanding that a make-up school day will <u>not</u> need to be added to the calendar in June.

The *Snow Days Scholars* program will be initiated <u>after</u> three (3) emergency closing days have occurred. During this pilot year of the program, no more than two (2) independent learning days will be utilized (see chart on the next page). On the 4th emergency closing day principals from each school will send a communication to families reminding students to complete *Snow Day Scholars* activities. SWHS teachers will either communicate the morning of through technology platforms like Google Classroom or will have previously communicated/provided Snow Day Scholar assignments to students.

High school students will receive assignments for classes that they would miss during the 4th and 5th emergency school closing respectively. These assignments may include continual work on performance assessments, reading and research related to course content, introduction of new material using technology platforms, independent application of course concepts, or ongoing practice to reinforce core skills. Teachers will make every effort to communicate assignments in advance of anticipated school closings and to provide both print and digital resources for students. Teachers may also utilize Google Classroom to post related resources. As this is a pilot program, the projects and assignments will be carefully designed by teachers to promote student independence, as well as reinforce and enrich course content.

More information related to the *Snow Day Scholars* program can be found on the district website. If interested, please visit http://www.southwindsorschools.org/; scroll over "District Information" and click "Snow Day Scholars Program."

Wishing you a safe winter season!

Sincerely,

Frank Rizzuto
SWHS Principal

P.S.: Please note that for the 2019-20 school year there have been two emergency closings at the time of this communication and they have been noted in the chart below.

Emergency closing day #	Impact to school calendar:
1 (October 17, 2019)	School year extended by 1 day
2 (December 3, 2019)	School year extended by 2 days
3	School year extended by 3 days
4	Snow Day Scholars Day: Students and teachers engaged in independent learning. No extension of the school year.
5	Snow Day Scholars Day: Students and teachers engaged in independent learning. No extension of the school year.
6	School year extended by 4 days
7	School year extended by 5 days
8	School year extended by 6 days