



School District of Pickens County

Building success beyond the classroom



March 25, 2021

Dear SDPC Family,

The end of a long school year is finally in sight, and I thank you for your partnership as we have fought to ensure safety and meet the learning needs of our students this year.

After spring break until the end of the school year, we will plan for a total of five Remote Learning Days:

- April 16
- June 1-4

Spring Break	April 5 - 9	Spring Break - No School
Week 31	April 12 - 16	Mon-Thur / All students (at school face-to-face instruction) Fri - 4/16 / Remote Learning (asynchronous) all students
Week 32	April 19 - 23	All students (at school face-to-face instruction)
Week 33	April 26 - 30	All students (at school face-to-face instruction)
Week 34	May 3 - 7	All students (at school face-to-face instruction)
Week 35	May 10 - 14	All students (at school face-to-face instruction)
Week 36	May 17 - 21	All students (at school face-to-face instruction)
Week 37	May 24 - 28	All students (at school face-to-face instruction)
Week 38	May 31- June 4 Mon. May 31 No School	Tue. June 1 - Fri. June 4 Remote Learning (asynchronous) all students

As we announced last week, April 16 will be a Remote Learning Day in order to accommodate the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine for employees. June 1-4 will be Remote Learning Days to allow schools to accommodate testing requirements for many students in Pickens County Virtual Academy and for students who may have missed testing due to quarantines. It is a difficult decision to give up instructional time at the end of this school year. However, meeting the testing requirements from the South Carolina Department of Education is a time-consuming process for our school staff. Many students require individual accommodation for testing that

Superintendent's Office

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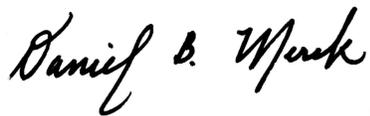
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demands one-on-one attention from teachers, and these requirements may prevent them from supervising their normal classes.

Each of the Remote Learning Days will be asynchronous, meaning that students will have independent assignments to complete, but will not be required to log in to classes at specific times. Assignments for the June Remote Learning Days will be made available beginning on May 1, 2021 and due by June 4. May 28 will be our final day of in-person instruction for the school year.

A year ago, many of us had doubts about whether students would be able to attend school at all this year. When we complete the year on this schedule, we will have held in-person school for 158 out of 180 possible days for Kindergarten through 2nd grade, 153 days for grades 3-5, and 144 days for sixth grade and above. We are fortunate to have been able to keep our classrooms open for more than 80% of the school year while also offering a fully virtual education option for students who needed it. Our success has been the result of tremendous cooperation between our teachers, students, support staff, principals, school board and parents. I want to thank each group for the sacrifices you have made to ensure our students' safety and to preserve their success beyond the classroom. You have made the impossible possible this year!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel B. Merck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'D' and 'M'.

Danny Merck

SDPC Superintendent