

Good evening South Meck Families,

This is Principal Starnes with an important update regarding screen time, homework, and grades.

First, we'd like to thank our students, families, and staff for extending grace to each other over the past 5 weeks. As mentioned for the past two Sundays, we have worked to develop a plan with our administrators and staff which hopefully will reduce screen time for our students both during the school day and after-school hours.

Daily instruction remains a priority and although students are required to engage in 75 minutes of learning for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th block class, those 75 minutes will include both synchronous and asynchronous learning. Students are expected to participate daily in live instruction for each class and are required to have cameras turned on in order to be counted present. Our student remote learning expectations which were shared in August can be found on our school website or by clicking here [Student Remote Learning Expectations](#).

Our first strategy to reducing screen time was to reduce the number of days our students are required to attend Advisory Block. Previously, students had 45 minutes of Advisory Block 5 days a week and now Advisory will take place on Tuesday and Thursday only for synchronous instruction. Although 45 minutes may not appear as much, when you add those minutes up, we believe that relieving students of that daily requirement will be of great benefit. So again, Advisory Block is only on Tuesday and Thursday.

Our second strategy to reduce screen time is to change our homework policy. Effective September 29th, students will only be expected to submit one homework assignment per course per week. In addition, we have provided designated days for homework submissions. Tuesday and Wednesday will be our standard days to submit homework for Math, Social Studies, Arts, and World

Languages classes and Thursday and Friday will be our standard days to submit homework for English, Science, EC, EL, Health/PE, and CTE & ROTC classes. This means no student should have homework due on a Monday which requires them to complete homework over the weekend. Our teachers will ensure homework is purposeful and is truly aligned to the state standards, while not being just busy work. Again, this is effective September 29th for all classes.

Although this may not seem like a lot, we believe our strategies are both designed to ensure we consider the social and emotional well being of our students, while teaching all courses with fidelity.

As it relates to grades...all courses should have grades in PowerSchool. If for any reason you don't see grades in PowerSchool, please contact your child's teacher directly and/or contact the administrator based on your students last name. Know, we are here to support.

Thank you for listening and have an amazing night!