



*Delivering Extraordinary Value to Families*

## **Steel Valley School District**

### **District Administrative Offices**

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*Edward Wehrer*  
*Superintendent*

May 22, 2020

Dear Steel Valley Community,

Last night the Steel Valley Board of School Directors approved my recommendation to change Thursday, May 28, and Friday, May 29, from instructional days for students to Act 80 days for staff professional development. This adjustment means that the last day for students is Wednesday, May 27. I suggested the change to provide Google certification training for our teachers and paraprofessionals. I am impressed and grateful that our teachers adapted so well to the unexpected closure of schools; however, because remote learning was not anticipated before the pandemic, the District had not prepared formal instruction for our staff. Our staff, students and families are now familiar with Google Classroom, and that is the learning management system we will use for the 2020 – 2021 school year. The Google certification training next week will enable us to utilize the complete functionality of Google Suite for Education, which is a set of tools that includes Google Classroom. Thank you to everyone who contributed their thoughts and guidance to this decision.

As the school year comes to a close, the administration also has made a decision about iPad collection. Typically, student iPads are collected at the end of the school year. This school year surely was not typical, and we have a long summer break before school resumes in the fall. In order to help our students' learning, our staff is developing plans for voluntary learning programs that will take place over the summer. To take advantage of summer learning opportunities, our students will need their iPads. Therefore, we will collect iPads only for the senior class. I apologize for any contradictory information you may have received about iPad collection.

If you happen to move out of the District this summer, you must return your District-issued iPad. For the protection of our taxpayers, we will pursue all avenues to collect the device or the cost of its replacement. Also, any family that does not wish to keep their child's iPad over the summer may contact their school and arrange the return of the device.

I am proud of how our schools and community have worked together since our buildings closed, and we will continue to communicate with you as we develop our plans for summer and fall. I wish everyone a great holiday weekend, and please continue to practice good health habits.

Sincerely,

Edward Wehrer  
Superintendent