



Somis Union School District

5268 North Street
Somis, CA 93066

Board of Education

Bob Fulkerson
Scott Mier
Jeff Ogne
Michelle Quintero
Lizette Cuevas-Gonzalez
Colleen Robertson, Ed.D. Superintendent

March 14, 2020

Dear Somis Union School District Families:

Like you, we are all concerned about the spread of the novel coronavirus and the uncertainty it's creating in our daily lives. Today, the Ventura County Public Health department declared a local health emergency, which will provide additional resources for coronavirus response. As a result of this declaration and in the interest of the health of our community, Somis Union School District has decided to close our school beginning Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 20. We hope to reopen on Monday, March 23, but that decision will depend on the circumstances at the time. We will update families about our plans no later than Friday, March 20, 2020. It is critical that we have your most current information, so please contact Maria in the office at (805) 386-5611 to report any changes in your contact information.

We have purchased workbooks for each student so they will have some academic activities. (6th grade and 8th grade workbooks are on back order so they will receive packets). The workbooks we are sending home are divided into 5 weeks but the number of activities are minimal. **The answer keys are for parents, and can be found in the yellow manila envelope.** These workbook activities can be supplemented by reading books. Older students can practice their writing skills by rewriting the end of the story, adding a new character, or rewriting the story to occur in the distant past or the far future. Encourage your child to write their own stories. Ask them to think about new inventions to solve problems. Ask your child to think about new ways that objects may be used. For instance, a cereal or cracker box could become a toy car, a building block, part of a playhouse, a storage container, make a diorama, a picture frame. It could be cut into fraction strips; younger children could circle certain letters or words on the box. Ask your child to invent a new cereal flavor and then design a cereal box that would entice people to buy that cereal. Calculate how much the cereal would cost. There are endless ways to engage your child's curiosity, creativity, and problem solving skills.

Along with this letter and workbook, I am attaching a parent letter about how to discuss the issue of the coronavirus with your child. We want to protect your child's mental health as well as their physical health. We understand that school closures have significant impacts on our students and families and we hope to resume normal operations as soon as possible. We thank you for your understanding during this challenging time.

Please check our website for up-to-date information. The following website will provide current public safety information.

<https://www.venturausd.org/edserv/EducationalServices/HealthServices.aspx>.

[California Department of Public Health website](#)

[CDC website](#)

Thank you,



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Dr. Colleen Robertson
Superintendent/Principal