

January 12, 2021

Hello SEMS Families,

There will be more logistical updates from last night's board meeting in next week's email. We will be meeting this week to update our plan, and I will share that with the community as soon as I have a clear understanding of our path forward. Here is what we know as of this morning:

- **Next Week**  
The three prep days scheduled for next week have been replaced with regular days of instruction
- **3 Teacher Prep Days prior to in-person learning**  
Those days will be postponed and saved for if we do return to in-person learning  
January 19, 20, 21 will remain as typical remote learning days
- **Non-Student Day**  
January 22 will remain a Non-Student Day

### **Your Student's Second Semester Schedule**

While we will shift to the new schedule at the beginning of second semester (Monday, January 25), we will keep the online start time for school (8:30am) and shift to the earlier bell schedule once in-person learning resumes.

As a reminder, we are still in the first semester.

Second semester schedules will be available through StudentVUE on Friday, January 15.

### **Student Cameras During Instructional Time**

Beginning with the second semester, we will mandate that students have their cameras on during instructional time. After a year of distance learning, we have identified those few families who have legitimate concerns. We have kept informal data on classes where cameras are mandatory, and we have seen significant increases in engagement and grades in those classes. I have also seen firsthand how difficult it is for teachers to assess mastery, especially in classes such as PE and math, when they cannot see the students performing the activities. Our teachers have worked tirelessly to provide an exceptional experience while teaching to largely black squares, and they need the feedback that comes with seeing the students as the learning is presented. We will work with the small percentage of students who have legitimate claims regarding their setting, and it is time to move to address the majority of students and individualize the support for those few exceptions. I urge all families to have the conversation with their students regarding this change, and we appreciate the partnership in learning with our families.

### **From SEMS Yearbook Staff**

Our Yearbook team needs your pictures and thoughts from the holiday season. We want to know if you have any holiday traditions, about your winter break adventures, and your thoughts on the new year. Please fill out the forms through the linktree.

And don't forget to purchase your yearbook if you haven't already!

<https://linktr.ee/semsyearbook>

Stay safe, stay healthy, and take care.