



Coronavirus
COVID-19

Education During A Pandemic: Special Edition

April 2020



SHESC Messenger

Adjusting to Support Learning During Coronavirus

The landscape of education in Kansas has been profoundly reshaped as state leaders work to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

During these unprecedented times, Smoky Hill Education Service Center is here to provide support and guidance, while still protecting the health of SHESC employees and those at our member institutions.

SHESC administration has already made the following changes, based on recommendations from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Kansas State Department of Education, and the Centers for Disease Control:

- Offices are closed to non-employees, but staff can still help via phone, email or videoconferencing.
- SHESC travel has been restricted.
- Inservice training, workshops, and

events are still available for professional development, but are exclusively online until further notice.

- All Superintendents' Advisory Council (SAC) meetings will be held every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

SHESC Support and Resources

• **COVID-19/Education Resources:** A new page of resources at go.smokyhill.org/COVID19.

• **Educator Resources Page:** More than 125 (and growing!) free and discounted resources at go.smokyhill.org/Educator-Resources.

• **Direct Staff Support:** Technology support; crisis services; Social, Emotional and Character Development; English Language Learners; and more. Call 785-825-9185 or email info@smokyhill.org to reach the best contact.

• **Existing Online Resources:** Online test prep and lessons, Learn360 multimedia resources, Fast ForWord literacy products, Rosetta Stone foreign language program, Smoky Hill Learning Center degree completion. See go.smokyhill.org/services.

Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities!

IMPORTANT NOTE: To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, all workshops and events for the rest of the academic year will be held **online only** via Zoom. Details for accessing each online meeting will come from the instructor. In addition, **all times have changed** compared to when the classes were originally posted. Please carefully note all details when you register.

April 6 OR April 7
Student Engagement vs Student Participation

April 22 OR April 23
Our Language Matters

April 29
Tech Cadre

VISIT: go.smokyhill.org/workshops for more information and register.smokyhill.org/register to register for these events.

Tips and Guidance to Prioritize Social, Emotional and Character Development During Closings

By Noalee McDonald-Augustine
SHESC Consultant

When implementing continuous learning plans, be conscious and specific about integrating Social, Emotional and Character Development (SECD). Here are some tips for creating consistent structures, maintaining relationships, and providing opportunities for emotional regulation and developing self-management skills.

Establish regular check-in times with students by internet, email or phone. Keep these sacred, but communicate early if you have to change the time.

Identify classroom structures and rituals that can continue virtually.

Rituals provide predictability, safety and connection. Can class partners continue to read or work online? Can class meetings or family and community groups be continued?

Create opportunities for informal interactions - such as birthdays - or just a time for students to chat and see each other. Use a platform that allows students to answer fun questions, such as: "If you are now mouse-sized, where do you explore?" Posting comics, uplifting videos, or both can also help them cope. Having students generate stories about their experiences provides time for reflection.

Pen pal relationships could be established between students or with

older community members who may be isolated. And don't forget the power of handwritten notes from teachers and school personnel!

Include emotional self-regulation in beginning and ending routines or to prompt reflection. For example: "What color represents your feeling about this situation?" Also build in energizers and mindful activities.

Help students create a home work space, organize time, and know what to do with problems or questions. Allow students to share their problem solving and task management strategies.

You got this, but you don't have to do it alone. We are in this together.



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go.smokyhill.org/YouTube

'Virtual' Match Madness Raises About \$1K

greater salina community foundation



Even though all the in-person portions of the annual Match Madness fundraiser were cancelled because of COVID-19, people still donated gifts online, by mail, and by drop-off to the Greater Salina Community Foundation offices! Thanks to that generosity, more than 1,600 gifts meant \$283,768.37 for participating non-profit organizations!

For Smoky Hill Education Service Center, donors gave \$612.58. Final numbers are still pending, but with foundation matching funds, bonuses, and any mailed donations, it will mean about \$1,000. That's 1/5 of the way toward an educational virtual reality system that educators will be able to train on and use, as well as special events for student groups! This will make applying for technology grants for the remaining cost much easier.

Also, be sure to watch the recording of our Facebook Live demo of the system at go.smokyhill.org/MM-VR-Demo!



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'Do the Five' for Health

COVID-19 prevention is now everyone's job.

A simple, effective guide is the World Health Organization's "Do the Five":

- 1) **HANDS:** Wash them often (try the chorus of Dolly Parton's "Jolene," Queen's "We Will Rock You" three times, the "Jeopardy" theme, or visit www.washyourlyrics.com for custom posters to time out the recommended 20 seconds).
- 2) **ELBOW:** Cough into your elbow, not your hands.
- 3) **FACE:** Don't touch it.
- 4) **SPACE:** Keep a safe distance from others in public - at least three to six feet - especially anyone coughing or sneezing.
- 5) **HOME:** Stay at home if at all possible.

Understanding 'Continuous Learning'

On March 19, the Continuous Learning Task Force released a 72-page guide, available at go.smokyhill.org/Continuous-Learning. It includes planning tools, key questions for administrators and teachers, tips for teaching and learning online, and technology suggestions.

A collaborative list of resources is also available at go.smokyhill.org/KSDE-COVID-Resources.

Key points and lessons from the guide include:

- Less is more. Focus on essentials.
- Emphasize relationships.
- Extend grace.
- Plan for change, not perfection.
- Go slow to move fast. Adapt and be flexible.
- Fulfill families' needs such as food and child care *first* so that learning may happen.
- Combine virtual tools, in-person instruction (**follow health guides!**), physical packets, and your own ideas to fit the local situation.

SHESC Welcomes Melissa Fast as Consultant

If you need professional development or support for math... think Fast!



Smoky Hill Education Service Center hired Melissa Fast in March to grow and develop math programming.

Upcoming resources and events may include training on the new "Transition to College Algebra" course in Kansas or a conference focused on

supplying resources and networking opportunities to math educators.

Fast comes to SHESC from the Kansas State Department of Education, where she was the Mathematics and MSP Consultant. In her 20-year education career, she has also worked in higher education administration, taught mathematics to grades 6-12, and served as an adjunct instructor at Neosho County Community College. Watch for more communication from Melissa soon!

"I was reading the dictionary. I thought it was a poem about everything."

-Steven Wright, Comedian

Volume Purchasing Athletics Catalog, COVID-19 Delays

The new 2020-2021 athletics catalog will go live on April 1, but only with a partial catalog. Suppliers inadvertently did not bid on certain items, so a second request for bid is out on those items, but they won't be added until mid-April. Our apologies for the delay.

Also of note in volume purchasing, COVID-19 is resulting in supply-chain issues across the economy and is also affecting some orders placed through Smoky Hill Education Service Center.

Athletics Catalog Highlights

- Archery bow strings, 60": 5.9% less!
- Badminton racket (steel): 27.3% less!
- Table tennis balls (box of 12): 35.3% less!

As of the end of March, suppliers have informed SHESC that item stocks are generally available and delivery is not delayed. However, custodial supplies, sanitizers and disinfectants, and personal protective equipment are mostly in short supply or unavailable. For urgent needs, please contact Adam Pracht, Volume Purchasing Coordinator, at vp@smokyhill.org or 785-825-9185. He will do everything possible to meet requests.

Pracht is also providing timely updates and information on item availability and delivery via the Benchmark email platform. Sign up to receive these volume purchasing emails at go.smokyhill.org/VPNews.

Smoky Hill Education Foundation Golf Tournament

Our annual tournament supports education across the region!

Visit go.smokyhill.org/golf2020 for more information, registration and a donor form.

Registration deadline is May 22.

