



South Park School District
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South Park School District

August 16, 2019

South Park Families:

The days of summer are winding down, and soon South Park students will return to school. As we get ready to begin another school year on Monday, August 26, I wanted to provide you with an important update about the district's planned migration to a new student information system, which is critical for the operation of the district. The system tracks attendance and grades, serves as the database for all student records and helps us record data for mandated state and federal reports. Data from our student information system is utilized in all aspects of our education operations including special education, communication from school to home and food services to name a few.

As you likely read online or in the Park News, we planned to introduce PowerSchool to our families for the 2019-2020 school year. The discussions about and work towards this major conversion began in the winter. Our administration and staff have spent months working closely with PowerSchool's implementation team to launch the system this month. The conversion to PowerSchool also meant the introduction a new parent portal to our families. We shared some information about the parent portal with you in the past few weeks.

Recently, we noticed several issues which occurred during the conversion process. This week, district administrators and staff decided to pause the changeover to PowerSchool and return to the eSchool, which the district has used for the past four years. Our team now must repeat much of the work in eSchool that was previously done in PowerSchool. This is why we have only been able to release transportation and homeroom assignments to this point. While this decision was difficult, it was made to ensure we are ready for the start of school on Monday, August 26. Knowing how critical that accurate data is for all stakeholders, we want to ensure that any system provides the best possible data prior to full implementation. We will continue to work with PowerSchool throughout this school year.

The return to eSchool means that families will once again use the familiar Home Access Center for the start of the 2019-2020 school year. As administrators, faculty and staff at our schools work to complete several months' worth of work in the days leading up to the start of school, Home Access Center will remain offline. Student schedules will be available for our fifth and ninth grade students during their respective orientation events next week. When the rest of the schedules are completed and verified, we will be able to restore Home Access Center. However, we cannot guarantee that Home Access Center will be available next week. We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your understanding and patience. Information will be shared soon for families who do not yet have a Home Access Center account.

I want to thank our administrators, faculty and staff for the work that has been done and will be done over the next week to ensure we are ready to welcome students on Monday, August 26.

Sincerely,

Wayne P. Gdovic
Superintendent of Schools
South Park School District