

Mary M. Knight School District

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COVID-19 Update for April 1, 2020

Dear Parents, School District Staff and Families.

I wanted to give you an update of the school activities during this extended school closure.

Meals: We have been distributing “Grab and Go” meals to children at Mary M. Knight School district and six remote locations since March 19, 2020. Since March 19, we have delivered over 753 meals to children. We will continue this meal delivery during our extended closure. Parts of the meals that were not distributed have been donated to the Matlock Food Bank since once a school meal leaves our facility we cannot reuse many portions.

Instructional Material: We have continued to provide instructional “Learning Packets” for each child at MMK during our closure. We want to provide material to students and families to keep students engaged in the learning process. The packet pick up and drop off day is every Thursday at the MMK HS Cafeteria.

Teachers have begun to call students directly at home to check on their progress and to make contact with students and their academic needs. We are utilizing a program called “Google Voice” for these phone calls. Each teacher has a direct phone number that students may dial if they need assistance. Please expect a phone call and we will post the teachers phone numbers on our webpage and Facebook page.

Access to the Internet: We have provided a “Wi-Fi” hotspot for students to utilize during this closure who need internet access with their own electronic device. This is for students who need access to their “Google” classroom account for resources or need access for college applications or scholarship information. The “Wi-Fi” will be available outside of the High School Office from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

MMK Hours of Operation: During the week of April 6 to April 10, most of our existing staff will be off work. Our district office will be open during that week. We are planning to deliver a week’s worth of meals to children on April 3 for the following week since we are on Spring Break.

School Calendar: Based on the guidance that we received on March 13, we will need to adjust our school calendar. The tentative last day of school will be Friday, June 19, 2020 and May 4, 2020 will be a make-up day. Graduation is still being discussed, however we may need to move Graduation to tentatively Saturday, June 13, 2020.

12th Grade (Seniors): Our High School Teachers have been reaching out to 12 grade students and our Principal Mr. Marstrom has been trying to make individual appointments with Seniors and parents to map out the graduation requirement that still needs to be met. We are asking our 12th grade students to make sure they are making contact with their teachers during this time.

State Testing: The Smarter Balance State Assessment (SBAC) for students in grades 3-10 has been suspended this spring. However, for the 12th grade students who still need to test, this requirement has not been waived at this point. Again, another good reason for Seniors to be in contact with their teachers.

Third (3rd) Quarter Report Cards: We will not be mailing out 3rd quarter report cards at this time since the school closure occurred prior to the end of the 3rd quarter grading period. We are working on modifying the grading period when we resume operations. There will be more information on this as we receive further guidance and recommendation.

Old Timers Fair: The Old Timers Fair Committee contacted me this week. After a great deal of deliberation, the committee has decided to cancel this year's Old Timers Fair. They made this difficult decision to ensure the health and safety of the Matlock Community.

Unfortunately, we will see other traditional celebrations not occurring this spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Finally, since the closure, I have been receiving weekly guidance for OSPI, Governor's Office, and the Department of Health. The information continues to evolve and continually change day to day. The week of April 6, 2020, Governor Inslee will make a decision on the current "Stay Home-Stay Healy" emergency order, the Washington State School Board will make emergency rules in regards to the class of 2020 Graduation requirements, and we may receive a modification to extend the closure of all public schools by the Governor next week.

These are challenging times for all families and community members, as I receive more guidance and any further orders, I will communicate and additional changes in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Matt Mallery
Superintendent