

WELLINGTON School District

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Leaders of Innovative Future-Focused Real World Learning



USD 353 Teachers, Staff, Families and Community,

As you know, on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 Governor Laura Kelly announced all school facilities will close for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. We understand the hardship a school closure places on our families as well as the social and emotional impact it will have on our students, teachers and staff.

We also understand the financial impact a school closure may have on our staff members. For this reason we want to say first and foremost that USD 353 WILL be fulfilling payroll obligations through the contract date of June 30th, 2020. Work schedules and responsibilities will look different but will be focused on how we can support student learning throughout the remainder of the school year and prepare for next year.

Learning must continue and KSDE officially handed down their recommendations for continuing learning on Wednesday, March 18th. Using these recommendations we are able to mold a learning plan that best fits our district. Our district leadership team met today (adhering to the guidelines put forth by KDHE), Thursday, March 19th to begin the unprecedented task of developing a contingency plan for educating students using these recommendations.

In addition to educating students, we are also working through other critical issues. There is a lot more information to come, however, below is a list of critical issues and any action taken thus far.

-What does this mean for food service?: Free pre-packaged meals will be distributed to kids ages 1-18 beginning on Monday, March 30th. Details to be posted soon.

-What does this mean for recognizing our Seniors?: We are researching ways to still be able to celebrate our Seniors and bring them some closure.

-What does this mean for students with IEP's?: We are still receiving guidance from the state

-What does this mean for students who receive services?: We are still receiving guidance from the state

-What does this mean for students with no internet access or other means to learn virtually?: All students will be provided a chromebook. We are working through the other challenges as well.

-How students will retrieve their personal belongings, chromebooks, and supplies from buildings?: We are currently working on a plan for students/parents to sign up for a time to come and collect their belongings and check out a Chromebook if needed. This way we can control the number of people in each building.

We are finalizing the details of our plan in the coming days.

Teachers and staff can expect to receive directives by Friday, March 20th.

Students and Families can expect to receive directives by Tuesday, March 24th.

Our goal is to implement and begin our continuous learning plan on Monday, March 30th.

This is a huge undertaking and it's not going to be perfect or ideal. We appreciate your patience and support. We know there are many questions and concerns and we will do our best to address them all. We will direct people where to call/email with their questions next week. Communication will remain a top priority. We will be providing regular updates through our website, social media pages, and local media.

As a reminder, this school closure is in response to the current public health crisis. The focus should remain on preventing the spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19 as it is also referred to.

Please follow guidance from these sources:

- [National Center for Disease Control](#) (CDC)
- [Kansas Department of Health and Environment](#) (KDHE)

Based on the discussions I have had, and the communications I have received over the last 48 hours, I am encouraged by the response of our community. Please continue to support one another throughout these uncertain times.

Sincerely,

Adam Hatfield
Superintendent
Wellington Public Schools