

JESUP COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



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March 17, 2020

Dear Jesup Parents, Students, and Staff,

I am writing to provide you with a general update as we complete our first day of the 4-week school closure. We know this is an extremely stressful time for many and we are all operating with an increased sense of anxiety and worry with the everchanging events and uncertainties. It is my hope to continue to provide you with regular updates and announcements as information becomes available. Below are some updates that we have to share at this time.

Hours of Operation and Visitors

All district buildings are closed to the public and very limited to staff at this time. The Governor has imposed additional restrictions for public travel and gatherings as of this morning. Central office staff, building supervisors, and custodians will be working during this time of school closure, but it is expected that no other staff is present. Phone lines will remain open during normal business hours and central office staff will be responding to school email. In the event that there is a need to visit the school building for a specific reason, we are asking that any visitors or staff check-in at the superintendent's office using the Activity Entrance on the south side of the building. Central office staff will meet you at the door after buzzing in on the intercom system.

School Day Forgiveness

The State Legislature has approved and the Governor has signed a bill forgiving school days from needing to be made up due to the 4-week school closure due to the coronavirus. The Jesup School District will have lost 19 days under the current school closure. Under this bill, the Jesup School District will not be required to make up any of these days pending board approval.

Teacher Remote Working

The administrative staff has developed a plan to allow teachers the ability to work remotely. A strong plan has been developed and is being reviewed to allow teachers to work on providing additional online resources (hard copy resources for those with limited access to the Internet), develop plans and curriculum modifications in preparation for when school reconvenes, review and develop plans on Conditions of Learning data from the State, continue work on current professional development initiatives and curriculum alignment. Individual plans will be

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developed, reviewed, and facilitated by building principals. Building principals will be contacting teachers within their respective buildings to discuss these plans in detail during the day on Wednesday, March 18th. Teachers, look for an email from your principal.

Online Resources

As students are out of school during the next 4-weeks, our teaching staff will be working to provide as many online resources and activities to be used voluntarily by families and students at home as enrichment activities if you so choose. The resources will be communicated through multiple formats and as many as possible will be linked to the district website. This will be a work in progress but we are committed to providing resources and activities to help in bridging the gap during this 4-week closure. These resources are to be used completely voluntarily and not intended to replace any regular instruction. Teachers will adjust curriculum and instruction accordingly for all students when they return.

Special Board Meeting

The Jesup School Board will be meeting in special session Wednesday, March 18th at 6 p.m. to act on the recommendation to continue regular pay for all classified staff during the 4-week school closure. Due to restrictions on public gatherings, the meeting will only be available to the public through a web link and call-in number. That information is located at the top of the meeting agenda which has been publicly distributed and is posted on the front door of the Activity Entrance to the school.

Prom

As an administrative team, we have reviewed the decision in regards to prom which is scheduled for Saturday, April 18th. While this event does fall just outside of the current 4-week school closure, based on guidance from the CDC to limit gatherings of 50 or more for the next eight weeks as well as the additional restrictions on travel and gatherings issued by the Governor this morning, we have made the decision to postpone prom. Staff associated with the planning of prom is currently looking at the possibilities of dates later in May as alternative options. Based on the current information we have and the guidance moving forward, there is a significant chance that we may not be able to reschedule this event and in that case, we will make a decision if needed to cancel as soon as we are able to. We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause for many of you.

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Public FAQ Page

We have received some questions from the public that we have responded to and published on the district website under the COVID-19 Updates under the Quick Links section. We will continue to review questions submitted daily and work to provide updated responses in a timely manner to this page. The direct link for this page is

<https://www.jesup.k12.ia.us/district/covid-19-public-faqs.aspx>

Nathan Marting
Superintendent