



Dear District 95 Parents and Guardians,

Please make sure you read this communication very carefully. **This email contains very important information for all parents including notification of a DELAYED START ON FRIDAY, MARCH 13TH, 2020, travel reporting requirements, and other important information.**

CURRENT SITUATION

As Coronavirus COVID-19 has now been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization, we continue to carefully monitor several items including, but not limited to, school cleaning efforts, school activities and events, and potential distance learning (eLearning) opportunities. With that said, it is important to note that if the district becomes aware of staff or student confirmed case(s) of COVID-19, we will notify staff and parents/guardians through our messaging system, providing direction and information with guidance from our local health department.

Currently, we are in regular contact with health officials, and at this time, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Lake County Health Department have **not** recommended that the district cancel or reschedule classes. We are following advice from these health organizations along with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) with respect to preparations and possible responses.

SCHEDULE CHANGE AND E-LEARNING PLANS

We are also preparing to continue the educational experiences of our students and staff in the event the virus affects our community by gathering educational resources for students to utilize at home. This will include both online and low-tech options, often times, based on grade level spans.

In order to have time with our staff to discuss these plans, we will have a DELAYED START FOR STUDENTS THIS FRIDAY, MARCH 13TH, 2020.

This means students will start school two hours later than normal. District school buses will arrive at your student's bus stop two hours later than their regularly scheduled time. This delay DOES NOT APPLY to Special Education outplacement students.

- High school students will start at 9:55 a.m. Accommodations will be communicated separately for Tech Campus students.
- Middle school students will start at 9:30 a.m.
- Elementary students in full-day Kindergarten through 5th grade will start at 10:35 a.m.
- Little Leaders Preschool/Early Childhood *afternoon* half-day students will start at 12:21 p.m.
- Half-day Kindergarten students and Little Leaders Preschool/Early Childhood Morning half-day students **will not attend school.**

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Students who walk or drive to school should arrive no more than 15 minutes prior to the delayed start time. Some class periods may be shortened to accommodate a shorter day, but dismissal times will not change. Our food service provider will continue to serve lunch as usual.

TRAVEL

As we approach Spring Break, I want to make you aware of the following guidance.

Currently, the IDPH states that if you are returning from an area identified by the CDC as "Level 3" (currently China, South Korea, Italy, and Iran) that you are required to self-quarantine for 14 days after the day you return to the U.S. Please note that areas listed as Level 3 may change. While we are asking that all staff and students/families provide us with information regarding travel during Spring Break, it is important for you to note that it is your responsibility to check the CDC website every day for the latest update regarding areas identified as Level 3. For more information, please visit the CDC website: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>.

Please complete this form with your travel plans during Spring Break (if any).

SPRING BREAK CLOSURES

Additionally, we want to inform you that we are preparing for an additional deep cleaning and sanitizing of each of our schools over Spring Break. In order for this to occur, **we will be closing our elementary and middle schools beginning on March 23, 2020 and ending at 5:30am on March 30, 2020. During this time period, the buildings will not be accessible to anyone with the exception of those conducting the deep cleaning.** All outside rentals have been cancelled during this timeframe to allow for the deep cleaning. **At the high school, only student activities/sports will take place from Monday through Thursday. We will be shutting down the majority of the high school for the purpose of deep cleaning March 23, 2020 through March 26, 2020. The only areas that will be open will be the gym, field house, main office area, and the athletic department offices. Beginning at 11pm on March 26, 2020, the entire high school will be shut down until 5:30am on March 30, 2020.** Again, no one will be allowed on site.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

For now, the most important thing you can do to protect yourself is to **follow the standard preventive practices**. There are a number of steps that students, staff and community members can take to minimize the spread of all respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Our students deserve to feel safe and supported at school. Please join our staff in being mindful of your words and understand that the privacy and well-being of our children is our collective

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responsibility. The Pandemic Information Page on our website contains a resource that may be helpful for talking to students about this situation.

Please remember that exposure to COVID-19 can occur from any person-to-person contact and is not limited to a particular race or ethnicity. More information about COVID-19 is available from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [CDC COVID-19](#). The IDPH also has information available on its website, including a coronavirus hotline: [IDPH COVID-19](#).

The [Centers for Disease Control](#) advises that older adults and people who have serious chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes and lung disease could be at greater risk. As parents, you always have the ultimate decision about what is best for your children, including when to keep them home. When making personal decisions on whether to attend any school function during this time, please carefully weigh all underlying health conditions.

I apologize for the late notice of the Delayed Start but we feel it is critical to our planning efforts to have this time with our staff.

At this time, I feel it is important to say that I have been very impressed by the commitment, supportiveness, engagement, and generosity demonstrated by our district families in many situations, particularly when presented with challenges. Our community has shown kindness, caring, and concern for one another in the face of adversity and I am honored to serve this district. Once again we will need to pull together as we navigate this dynamic situation. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kelley Gallt
Superintendent