



GULF SHORES

CITY SCHOOLS

Information for Parents and Students from Superintendent, Dr. Matt Akin:

We are continually monitoring information related to COVID-19. Additionally, we are receiving regular updates from the Alabama State Department of Education and the Alabama Department of Public Health. I understand that this is a worrisome and stressful time for your family, and I assure you that we will be here to support you. Below is information related to many school operations. Additionally, our school principals will be following up with any school specific information. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns (info@gulfshorescityschools.org).

School Closures

Per the Governor's mandate, all Gulf Shores City Schools will be closed on Thursday, March 19 through April 3. Spring break is still scheduled for April 6-10. While the school buildings will be closed, office personnel will be answering the phones, and administrators and teachers will be monitoring email. Currently, the central office will remain open.

Students are not required to attend school on Tuesday and Wednesday. We are remaining open through Wednesday because we understand that many parents are in the process of making childcare arrangements for the upcoming closure. The after-school programs will remain open through Wednesday afternoon.

If your child is not attending school this week, you may pick up digital devices and/or printed instructional materials at the school on Wednesday.

Learning Plan

During the state-mandated school closure, Gulf Shores City Schools is committed to providing learning opportunities for our students. To prevent an instructional gap, our teachers have prepared digital and printed learning materials. These materials can be accessed through your child's online Google Classroom or Canvas account. Students in grades 2-12 will be able to take their digital device home to access these instructional opportunities. Families who do not have access to the internet should contact the central office to check out a hotspot. Printed copies of learning materials are also available if needed. Students in preK-1 will be provided with written materials and books to take home.

During the school closure, teachers will be available during regular school hours to support you and your child through digital communication should you need assistance with these learning activities. Students who receive services through special education, the English Language



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Learner program, and/or Section 504 should contact their case manager for questions or additional support.

While these learning activities are optional, we strongly encourage children to complete these activities if possible. Continuing the learning process during the school closure will help your child stay on track for grade-level success. We know that education is of utmost importance to your family, and we want to support our children during this unusual time.

Complete details are available in the [GSCS Distance Learning Plan](#).

Child Nutrition Program (Food Service)

Gulf Shores City Schools will implement a School Closure Feeding Program on these dates

Thursday, March 19, 2020 through Friday, March 20, 2020

Monday, March 23, 2020 through Friday, March 27, 2020

Monday, March 30, 2020 through Friday, April 3, 2020

We will be serving meals utilizing a drive-thru pick up at **Gulf Shores High School** between 11:00 am and 12:00 pm daily.

Free Meal Program Details:

1. Meals are FREE to all Gulf Shores students and anyone under age 18.
2. Food served is healthy and follows USDA nutrition guidelines.
3. No application or proof of income is needed to participate.

For more information and updates follow Gulf Shores City Schools on social media or go to www.gsboe.org

Medication

If your child has prescription medication that is a controlled substances and/or refrigerated medications stored in the nurse's office, they **must be picked up by a parent or guardian no later than March 18, 2020 at 3:00pm**. Any other prescription medications in the health room you feel may be needed at home during the school closure may also be picked up. These medications must be signed out on the Medication Administration Record (MAR).

Technology Support

Technology support for school devices and instructional activities is available during the school closure. Please email your child's teacher with questions concerning instructional activities.



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Hardware support questions or any other issues should be sent to Mr. Joey Drews, jdrews@gsboe.org. You may also contact Gulf Shores City Schools at 251-968-9873.

Virtual Academy

Although not required, virtual academy students may continue working in their classes. Students should contact Dr. Nelson (snelson@gsboe.org) for more information.

Field Trips, Special Events, Athletics

All field trips, special events, and athletic events and practices are cancelled during the school closure.

Plan for Sanitizing Schools and Buses

Schools and buses are currently being sanitized on a regular basis. During the break, our custodial staff and transportation staff will be conducting a deep clean in all locations and buses.

Stay Informed

We will provide updated information throughout the school closure. Please check our webpage (www.gsboe.org) and social media accounts for updated information. We will also provide updates through mass communication (email, phone, and text).

Who do I contact?

You may contact school administrators and teachers through their email accounts (available on the school websites). You may also call school offices and the central office with questions.

GSCS Central Office (251) 968-9873
Gulf Shores High School (251) 968-4747
Gulf Shores Middle School (251) 968-8719
Gulf Shores Elementary School (251) 968-7375