

March 17, 2020

Dear Keeneyville D20 Family,



Thank you for your extraordinary support over the past several days, as we have worked together to protect our community during the growing coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. To further safeguard Illinois from the spread of the virus, Governor JB Pritzker declared mandatory school closures for all buildings, both public and private, serving pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students.

All Keeneyville schools are closed from Monday, March 16 through Sunday, April 5 (which includes spring break week). We currently plan for classes to resume on Monday, April 6. Due to the rapidly changing situation, please be sure to visit our website regularly at www.esd20.org for updates and information.

During this unprecedented time, we are grateful for our staff and community partners who have come together to devise ways to support our students and families in new and different ways. **Please read the important updates and information below.**

1. FOOD SERVICES – New locations + schedule beginning Wednesday, 3/18

District 20 will be providing meals for children age 18 and below, or enrolled in school. Each child will receive two meals per day, one breakfast and one lunch. These meals can be picked up at the same time at **ANY** of the District 20 serving sites as listed below. Meals will be available as a Grab & Go service at each site at the door indicated.

Wednesday, March 18 to Friday, March 27

Greenbrook Elementary School- Serving Time 8:00 am-1:00 pm- Door #11

Spring Wood Middle School- Serving Time 9:00 am-10:45 am--Main Entrance

Waterbury Elementary School- Serving Time 11:15 am-1:00 pm--Main Entrance

2. AT HOME LEARNING

Information regarding [At Home Learning](#) is available on our website, as well as Frequently Asked Questions relating to at home learning during school closure. We will also provide printed grade level “choice boards” for students that can be picked up at any school, weekdays from 8:00am to 3:00pm, beginning on Tuesday, March 17. These choice boards provide sample activities that can be done without internet access in each core subject area.

At Home Learning activities will help to engage your children during our school closure and will provide continuity of learning outside the classroom walls. While nothing can replace face-to-face support and learning, we commend our staff and partners for their dedication and flexibility to support our learners and families from afar. Likewise, we appreciate the partnership of parents and community members to ensure our students continue to be supported and engaged learners during the school closure. The activities are optional and grades will not be impacted by At Home Learning.

To supplement these services, we encourage you to engage your children in other free, online educational activities. The Illinois State Board of Education has compiled a library of resources at www.isbe.net/keeplearning.

3. COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR KIDS

Concern over this new virus can make children anxious. It is very important to remember that children look to adults for guidance on how to react to stressful events. If adults seem overly worried, children's anxiety may rise. Adults should reassure children that health and school officials are working hard to ensure that people throughout the country stay healthy. We have also included resources to support children during the health crisis at [At Home Learning - Social Emotional Learning](#).

Children also need factual, age-appropriate information about the potential seriousness of disease risk, so the focus of conversation should be concrete instructions about how to avoid infections and the spread of disease. Teaching children

positive measures, talking with them about their fears, and giving them a sense of some control over their risk of infections can help reduce anxiety. Please talk with your children about precautions they can take to stay healthy, including:

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is best, especially if they are visibly dirty. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol is a suitable alternative. Consider showing your children one of these videos about proper handwashing technique: www.cdc.gov/handwashing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
- Stay home if you are able to stay home. Avoid travel if you can.

The National Association of School Psychologists has additional guidelines about talking to children about COVID-19 at [https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource).

We thank you all for your patience, support and partnership as we work to navigate this ever changing matter and find a new normal during this time. As we adjust and learn, we are committed to problem solving and making the best of the circumstances together for the best interest of the entire Keeneyville community. The health of all those in our community remains our highest priority.

Sincerely,

Dr. Omar Castillo
Superintendent of Schools
Keeneyville Elementary School District 20