



SKYKOMISH

SCHOOL DISTRICT

EST 1893

Everyone Succeeds | No Exceptions | No Excuses

April 6, 2020

Dear Skykomish Families,

Today, [Governor Inslee announced that schools will be closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year](#), in order to slow the spread of COVID-19 Coronavirus. During this closure, our District will remain closed. Without these restrictions, public health authorities have told us the rate of infection will overwhelm the healthcare system.

We acknowledge continued school closures are difficult on students, staff, families and the entire community. This is disappointing news for all of us: students miss their friends and teachers, and we miss our students. The extended closure also raises numerous questions for students and families. We are working quickly to answer your questions as soon as possible. In the meantime, here is what we know now:

- Continuous learning will continue in the same format as long as schools are closed. We are committed to continuing to partner with families and community to support our students' learning while they are at home. We will continue to develop and modify our district's continuous learning plan to best meet the needs of all students during this unprecedented time.
- Online instruction: We will not move to an online instructional model for every child in our District as we continue learning for the remainder of the school year. This is not a State directive or a mandate. We don't have that capacity in an equitable format for every child. We can't deploy a computer to every child because we have computers that do not have warranties and we have no way of protecting those assets once they are deployed. These devices are outdated and need to be replaced. We are in a tech levy collection cycle and we can't collect funds to purchase new computers until late spring. However, there's no guarantee right now that those funds will even roll in as a revenue source for our District according to King County Assessor with the COVID 19 pandemic. Not every household has access to the Internet, and we can't purchase hot spots for students unless those devices meet the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). CIPA hot spots are more expensive to purchase than a normal consumer purchasing a hot spot. These hot spots are not currently available until July and they are on backorder. Additionally, there are dead zones in our District where there is no cell coverage, so even if we did deploy such devices there is inequity.
- We will work together to best determine how grading will take place, in a way that is equitable for all students. Credits may be earned in multiple ways, which could include credit via work completion, competency-based assessments, expanded course equivalency, or pass/no credit transcript designations. These are important discussions that we need to have, and we need to develop a plan that will be approved by the Board of Directors.
- High school seniors will receive support from our guidance counselor and teachers on opportunities to earn and document credits they need for postsecondary transitions. We are working with the state's college system to ensure smooth transitions.
- We have established the following two locations where you can receive a grab 'n go prepared lunch meal (for the current day), as well as a breakfast meal (for the following day). Please call the school at 360-677-2623 x 0 by 3:00 pm each day if you will be picking up food the following day. 1)

Skykomish School at 11:00 am (Monday - Friday). 2) The Baring Store at 11:30 am (Monday - Friday). Meals are available to all persons age 0-18 years, free of charge. People are encouraged to obtain the meals and not congregate at these locations, as it is contrary to the goal of maintaining the "Social Distancing" protocol.

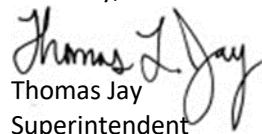
- All field trips and events, including sports, socials and dances, will be canceled during the extended closure. We are engaging with students to come up with creative alternatives to celebrate milestones such as prom and field day. In some cases, special events may be postponed until summer. We will keep students and families updated on these decisions so that you can plan in advance to participate.
- In-person graduation ceremonies will be modified to virtual ceremonies and/or delayed. A final decision will be shared by April 30.
- We are awaiting information from the Governor on whether school facilities will be open to provide summer school.

Please, stay home as much as possible and stay healthy. Even while staying at home, it is important to practice excellent hygiene and sanitation. Staying home and limiting person-to-person contact appears to be making a difference in slowing the spread of COVID-19, but those measures need to continue in order to be effective long-term. As much as possible, stay home, limit trips outside for groceries, gas and essentials, and stay 6 feet apart from people outside of your home. Additionally:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces.
- Stay at home away from others if you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.

More information can be found on the district website. Please reach out to our District with any questions.

Sincerely,



Thomas Jay
Superintendent

tjay@skykomish.wednet.edu

360-677-2623 ext. 101

Skykomish School District #404
105 North 6th Street
P.O. Box 325
Skykomish, WA 98288
Phone: (360) 677-2623
Fax: (360) 677-2418
Website: <http://skykomish.wednet.edu/>