



April 17, 2020

Dear School District of Janesville Community:

While not completely unexpected, yesterday we found out that our school buildings are now closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. We understand the importance of keeping students, families, and staff safe. We also remain committed to providing quality educational instruction for your students to close out the session.

This is new territory for all of us, and I can assure you that our employees are working hard for your students, making the best out of a challenging situation. One month ago, Governor Evers declared the public health emergency closing all Wisconsin schools. When students left school on Friday, March 13, no one knew that it was going to be the last 'regular' day of school for this term.

Obviously we are all sad that this is how the school year will finish out. Our teachers and building principals will continue working to provide quality online instruction for your students, and our school nutrition team will continue to provide access to lunch and breakfast, free of charge, for any child 18 years old and younger through the last day of school (June 5, 2020). We will provide more information about summer meal options by the first week of June.

There are however, many other concerns and matters for us to consider now that we know the public health order is extended. Some of these issues include details with respect to end-of-school-year matters, including how to handle/manage refunds for canceled events/field trips, how to distribute yearbooks, etc. We don't have the answers yet, but I promise that we will provide you with updates when we have them.

One matter of particular concern for many is how we will acknowledge our seniors in the class of 2020. To be clear, we will absolutely celebrate these seniors—what we need to determine now is how to do that. Over the coming days, I will work with our high school principals to find the best way we can honor and celebrate the seniors through alternative celebrations. We must take into consideration that social distancing guidelines that may continue into the summer, so, please stay tuned for more details regarding our seniors.

Usually in April, parents and students have already finished looking through our summer school course offerings and signed up for classes. At this time, we do not know if we will be offering summer school in the traditional sense, or if it might be offered through virtual learning. We will send you more information about summer school as we move into May.

Throughout this COVID-19 public health emergency, this community has been tremendously supportive. We ask for your continued support as our SDJ team works to finish out the school year in a meaningful way that is considerate of the current situation and the stress it has caused for students, families and school staff. There are a lot of 'unknowns' right now, but we join you in making the most out of this unique situation.

With warm regards,

Steve Pophal, Superintendent