

March 16, 2020

Dear Fabens ISD Community,

I am providing this update regarding next steps since announcing the district closure to students from March 23 through April 3, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. District personnel have worked to draft an *Instructional Support While at Home* model and meal schedule for our students during the closure.

STAAR Update: As you might have already heard, Texas Governor Abbott announced today that he has waived the State of Texas STAAR testing requirements for the 2019-20 school year. Additionally, the governor is requesting that the Dept. of Education waive federal testing requirements for the 2019-20 school year. Texas Commissioner Michael Morath issued a press release. Part of it states that the governor's actions allow us "the maximum flexibility to remain focused on public health while also investing the capacity to support students learning remotely."

Monday, March 16, 2020: Fabens ISD personnel met today to discuss plans for Monday, March 23rd. This day will be dedicated to Planning & Logistics for each respective school. We will try to keep it as simple as possible, but it will require for you to be open-minded, flexible and often "think outside the box." Keep in mind that these are uncharted waters and we are in a time that is anything but normal.

While we are in an emergency closure, limited staff will be required to report to complete critical functions such as basic instruction, payroll, food services, etc. so that we can continue our preparedness of serving our students and community during this unprecedented time. During the closure, teachers and essential staff will be asked to report to work and/or work from home in order to support continued instruction and district operations.

Employees: On Monday, March 23, 2020, professional staff and non-exempt employees who are on a 226 day or longer calendar will report to work. The purpose of the workday is designed to finalize and upload grades (teachers), as well as plan for the *instructional support while at home* assignments for students. Principals will assign groups of teachers to work together to design project-based style lessons for students to work on at home. Principals will meet with small groups that day to relay the guidelines for the activities/projects that will be made available to all students.

Instructional Support While at Home: During the closure time, students will be offered instructional resources in order to support learning at home. District and campus leaders have determined a good balance of hard copy and online resources to support learners while at home. Instructional distribution will take place on Thursday, March 26, 2020 from 7:30A-5:00P at all campuses and will continue through Tuesday, March 31, 2020. A count is being taken to determine which students who are enrolled in online or face-to-face classes need a device and/or hotspot in order to complete assignments for EPCC and UTEP courses.

Nutrition for Students: Breakfast and lunch will be made available to children aged 18 and younger through a curbside pick-up Monday through Friday, beginning March 23rd through April 3rd at Fabens High School located at 601 NE G Ave, Fabens, TX 79838. Breakfast will be served from 7:30A-9:00A and lunch from 11:00A-1:00P. Students must be in a vehicle (or walk-up) in order to receive a meal.

FABENS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Working together, Fabens ISD creates a positive and lasting impact through multiple learning opportunities.

Travel: Any employee who travels outside of the El Paso Tri-City area which includes El Paso, Las Cruces, Juarez will be required to notify their supervisor before returning to work. Travelers, employees or students, returning from outside of the Tri-city area or who are symptomatic or have been exposed to Coronavirus will be required to self-quarantine for a period of 14 days before returning to school or work. A personal day will be charged if the quarantine period extends into days that staff are required to report. Any staff member who has been asked to report to work can elect not to attend, however, a personal day will be charged for each day not in attendance. A form will be made available on the district's website to self-report any travel that took place. As indicated nationally, staff members are discouraged from any additional travel.

As our local, state and federal government response to the Coronavirus pandemic evolves, decisions made by Fabens ISD will also continue to be revised and readjusted to ensure the safety of students and staff.

UIL: At this time, all rehearsals, practices, and workouts are postponed indefinitely.

Community: All school buildings will remain on closure status during this time with the exception of the FHS cafeteria.

Respectfully,



Veronica Vijil, Ed.D.
Fabens Independent School District
Superintendent of Schools

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