

March 13, 2020

Dear District 113A Community,

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY ALL SCHOOLS IN DISTRICT 113A ARE CLOSED

To safeguard the health and wellness of students, staff, and the community we have decided to continue to close District 113A schools to students beginning **Monday, March 16, 2020**, with a projected return of **Monday, April 6th**. This is a dynamic situation and the return to school date may change.

The scale of national closure to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and direct guidance for social distancing requires our local schools to also take action. By closing schools to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19, we help lessen the burden on hospitals, which will need to focus their energy on people who are ill.

We are not aware of anyone in D113A who has been infected or exposed to COVID-19.

E-LEARNING SCHEDULE AND DAILY PLANS

The District's e-Learning plan has been put into place and staff will continue to monitor digital learning. e-Learning plans will be e-mailed on a daily basis at 8:30 a.m. providing active links and current information to families.

Monday, March 16: Day 2 e-Learning will be implemented.

Tuesday, March 17 through March 19: Days 3-5 e-Learning will be implemented.

Friday, March 20 through Friday, March 27: As of now, these days will be used as emergency school closure days, but e-learning options will be offered if they become available as an option to school districts.

March 29 through April 3: Schools will be closed for Spring Break as previously planned.

Monday, March 16th to Thursday, March 19th, e-Learning days will continue to be implemented. e-Learning will not take place during Spring Break (March 30 - April 3). Additionally, and previously communicated, e-Learning information can be found on our district's website. At 8:30 a.m. digital e-Learning plans for the day will be communicated to families. However, the district will be mailing home hard copy options for students in grades EC-5 to participate in engaged learning for Days 1-5, in the event that they cannot access the digital plans. Families should be expecting these hard copies early next week.

If your student is in grades 6-8 and needs access to print materials, please contact jsweeney@sd113A.org and arrangements will be made.

ACCESS TO BUILDINGS LIMITED

As an additional precaution, the District has limited access to the buildings during the school closure. However, we understand that you might have a need to access medication or personal items during this time. If your child needs access to his/her belongings during the school closure, please complete this form by clicking here. A principal or secretary will contact you with information on when you may come to the building to pick up your item(s) starting Monday, March 16 from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. We appreciate your cooperation and patience during this time.

We are canceling all before- and after-school activities from this point until further notice. This includes all district-sponsored and non-district sponsored events and activities. Additionally, before and after school care through CHAMPIONS will be canceled during the school closure. Champions has been communicating with families about possible closures and making alternative plans in the event of a closure.

FREE & REDUCED LUNCH AVAILABLE

For students receiving free and reduced lunch, please be aware that the district will have lunch available for pick up or drop off to your home. Once these plans are finalized, we will send out additional correspondence for qualifying families.

TRAVEL

As we approach Spring Break, we want to make you aware of the following guidance: Currently, the IDPH states that if you are returning from an area identified by the CDC as "Level 3", you are required to self-quarantine for 14 days after the day you return to the United States. Please note that areas listed as Level 3 may change. It is your responsibility to check the CDC website (<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>) every day for the latest updates regarding areas identified as Level 3.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

As a reminder, the most important thing you can do to protect yourself is to follow the standard preventive practices. There are a number of steps we can all take to minimize the spread of respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

Since the public announcement of the outbreak of the coronavirus, District 113A has been taking additional proactive steps to ensure the safety and health of our students and staff. Our custodial has been hard at work using a variety of methods to ensure our buildings are clean and safe.

They will continue to do this throughout the school year and take time over this extended break to do an even deeper clean of our facilities.

D113A posts previously communicated information to its Coronavirus Updates website page.

More information about COVID-19 is available from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at CDC COVID-19. IDPH also has information available, including a coronavirus hotline, at this link: [IDPH COVID-19](#).

As recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), if you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider immediately.

This is a very different time in our community than we have ever seen. It is important for all of us to do our part to ensure the health and safety of ourselves and our friends, neighbors, and community members. Kindness, compassion, and caring for others is imperative at this time.

You should expect daily communication from the district as we work through this process. If you need assistance, please contact the district office from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 630-257-2286. We will continue to keep you informed throughout this process. Thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,

Dr. Courtney Orzel, Superintendent of Schools