

Hello Dallas Students, Families and Friends:

I hope you are doing well and staying healthy. Thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we navigate the COVID-19 impact on Dallas School District. The information around this pandemic remains fluid and unpredictable. This email contains information **as I know today**. More updates will be sent in the days/weeks ahead. First, and as you may be aware, the Governor has extended the school closure mandate through April 28, 2020. All Oregon public schools will remain closed through this date. A copy of the Governor's Executive Order has been placed on the school district website. We are also placing these letters, meal information, education support resources and other information on the district website. I encourage you to check it frequently as it will be updated as soon as we have new information to share. Take a look -- <https://www.dallas.k12.or.us/corona-virus>

Other important information:

- Even though all schools are closed, the District Office remains open. Beginning Monday, March 23, and until further notice our hours will be 10 AM to 4:00 PM. We are maintaining social distancing and maximum group number requirements. We are scheduling a minimum of two district level employees at the district office each day in order to remain open and to handle daily operational tasks. Responses to general requests from the public may take additional time. You may also be required to leave a voicemail asking for a response before speaking with someone. Thank you for your patience with this.
- All schools remain closed to students, staff and the general public. We are continuing custodial/maintenance tasks. We are also preparing student meals at school sites. See next bullet with more information about that.
- We are expanding food services from the current practice of lunch each day. Beginning Monday, March 23, we will be providing both breakfast and lunch from 11 AM to 12:30 PM to anyone 18 years of age and younger at each of the five established sites --in the parking lots of Lyle and Whitworth Schools, Post High, The Academy Building and Woodbridge Apartments. We hope you take advantage of this opportunity.
- **Student Learning** Current guidance from the Oregon Department of Education is that we provide **supplemental learning** for students. Our efforts with supplemental learning will not replace the education we provide to students when they are at school. This is an important distinction for me to make. Some learning tools will be placed on the district website by the end of this week. This is a quickly evolving issue and we expect to provide additional learning tools in electronic and hard copy formats by the end of spring break. Stay tuned for more specific information.
- **What about seniors? Will they graduate?**
We have heard from officials at the Oregon Department of Education that high school seniors are their top priority. We expect to receive more details after spring break regarding supports and graduation requirements. There has been some discussion at the state level about instructional hour changes (reductions) and even credit waivers if students are not able to attend school again this year. I am paying particular attention to this subject and will share more information as soon as it becomes available.
 - **Will we have to extend the school year?** This is a possibility but we are uncertain at this time. We've been told by officials at the Oregon Department of Education that the trajectory of COVID-19 cases in the next couple of weeks will be a major factor in making the determination to return to school on or before April 29 or to extend the school year. Again, once we are aware of additional information we will share it with you.

Please be safe, take care of your loved ones and remain attentive to information as it becomes available. We are truly experiencing new information about this pandemic on an hour by hour basis.

Andy Bellando
Interim Superintendent