

March 31, 2020

Hello Dallas School District Students, Families, and Friends:

I hope you are doing as well as possible. This letter contains additional information about supporting our students since my update last week. You can also find it on the school district website along with other closure information -

- <https://www.dallas.k12.or.us/>

Distance Learning for All:

Just last night we received direction from the Oregon Department of Education that our education efforts will shift from "Supplementary" to "Distance Learning for All". This direction requires that all Oregon school districts create a distance learning plan by April 13, 2020. In its simplest terms, distance learning is instruction in which the student and teacher are in different locations. It is not just online learning. It could include telephone support, packet support and others. Our plan is being formed and will contain a combination of efforts which will allow students to continue their educational progress while away from school. These efforts will reflect three priorities -- Care, Connection and Continuity of Learning for our students. They will be defined in our plan when released on April 13. I ask for your continued patience as we adjust to this new requirement for our educators in support of our students.

Our current supplementary and home-based education efforts will continue. These include the K-12 grade level supports which you can access from the school district website. We will also continue with distribution of supplemental packets for K-8 students on a daily basis at each of our lunch distribution sites. Please take advantage of these resources.

Buildings and Outdoor Facilities Remain Closed:

There will be a limited daily presence at schools and the district office so we can receive deliveries and acquire needed items. Any calls will be managed by our auto attendant. Voicemail will be reviewed multiple times each day and we will continue to respond. All district staff members check and respond to emails every day. All facilities, including playgrounds, tennis courts and athletic facilities are closed per the Governor's order.

Our priorities this week:

Spring break is now finished and our staff members are first working to reconnect with each other and to put processes in place which will allow us to work remotely. Principals are working hard to make personal contact with each staff member. The next step is for teachers and other employees to make personal contact with each student and family in the district. We commit to making these contacts by Friday afternoon, April 3. Please call your school office telephone number and leave a voicemail if you have not been contacted by the end of the day Friday.

What about 2020 graduates?

We have been told by Oregon Department of Education (ODE) staff members that direction for our graduates are their highest priority. I anticipate a reduction in the credit requirement for current seniors so they remain on track to graduate this spring. I've also been told that the essential skills and state testing requirement will be eliminated for our seniors. Once we receive final guidance from ODE it will be shared with all seniors and their families. I am hopeful we receive this direction within the next week.

Free meal sites continue operation:

Our food service program is continuing and our food service employees are doing an amazing job. We served 935 meals (breakfast and lunch) today and about 6000 meals since the school closure began. I encourage you to take advantage of these meals served 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.

This closure is an ever changing and unpredictable matter. While there is a lot to consider, I commit to keeping focused on our care for students and creating the unique connections which are required right now. I also commit to providing these updates to you as they become available. Please email your school principal or me if you have any feedback, questions or would just like to discuss things. I hope you and your loved ones are staying well.

Andy Bellando
Interim Superintendent