



Family Information Related to COVID-19 and School Closures Bulletin #3 - March 18, 2020

Dear Whitnall Families:

To start, I would like to express my gratitude for your patience, understanding, and support. The response from the Whitnall community has become a source of comfort and pride, as we navigate this very difficult situation. Thank you. As you know, the circumstances are ever-changing. We are working hard to balance and synthesize our communication, so you are getting the latest updates without being inundated with information.

We recognize that some school districts have already begun their virtual learning. While I *am* connecting with other superintendents, it's important to remember that each school district is unique in terms of access to technology, state of curriculum, and learners to be served. Furthermore, before the closures, each school district was unique in their relationship to virtual learning--some were already utilizing it, some were in the process of developing it, and some were not quite there yet. As we have stated from the beginning, we made an intentional decision to extend our spring break, so that we would have the time to plan virtual learning for Whitnall. We are not expediting that planning. We want to ensure that Whitnall is providing equitable access to learning. We want **every** student to resume their education, regardless of disability, language, adult supervision, academic needs, etc. We also want to ensure that our educators are fully prepared to move from face-to-face instruction to virtual instruction.

Our plan for continuation of learning begins the week of March 30. In order for us to be prepared, we will be using the week of March 23 for pick up of resources and technology. If you are unable to pick up materials next week, we will provide alternate pick up during the week of March 30.

1. Students who may have any personal belongings in school buildings should plan to pick them up **Thursday, March 19 from 10 AM - 7 PM or Friday, March 20 from 10 AM - 2 PM**. Personal belongings are any belongings that are in lockers, including phy ed lockers, and not in classrooms. School supplies and other materials in classrooms will be made available to be picked up with instructional materials and technology pick up starting the week of March 23. Contact the building principal if you need more clarification.
2. We are finalizing technology needs from the survey that went out last evening. Just a reminder to complete the survey if you have not yet done so. Students K-5 who will need a device and families who need Internet access will be contacted regarding accommodations starting the week of March 23.
3. Meal pickup will continue through this week from 11 AM - 12 PM at WHS Main Entrance and **will also now be offered during spring break week**. You do not need to pre-register and do not need to have a child at Whitnall to pick up the meal nor have the children present in the vehicle.

We understand that parents and students may be concerned about loss of learning, impact on future school years, seniors earning credits to graduate, etc. We are concerned about those things too, but we will do everything in our power to minimize the impact of the closure. Students will continue to learn. We will be in touch about how.

Lisa L. Olson

Lisa L. Olson, Ph.D.

Superintendent