



Family Information Related to COVID-19 and School Closures Bulletin #5 - March 26, 2020

Dear Whitnall Families:

On March 14, Governor Evers announced the closure of all Wisconsin public K-12 schools. We still do not know when the closure will end, but we now know it will go beyond the original end date of April 6. In addition, Governor Evers issued a [Safer at Home](#) order which began on March 26 and extends through April 24, 2020. Below are the highlights, but we encourage all of our students and families to read the order in full.

- **Gatherings are not allowed:** Individuals residing in the same household may gather together in any permitted location. Avoid social gatherings with people of all ages (including playdates and sleepovers, parties, large family dinners, visitors in your home, non-essential workers in your house);
- **The public should follow [simple steps](#) to prevent illness and avoid exposure to this virus including:**
 - Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water;
 - Covering coughs and sneezes;
 - Avoiding touching your face; and
 - Stay home as much as possible.
- **Limit travel:** Trips outside of the home should only be to stores to obtain goods, including groceries, essential household items or supplies, medication and other services, such as medical appointments, for yourself or anyone you may be caring for. Traveling to exercise outdoors on trails or pathways is allowed and encouraged, as long as [social distancing](#) practices are maintained.

As previously stated, we will be using the week of March 30 to focus on training educators on how to design and teach in a virtual environment with gradual implementation of the virtual learning management system with our students. Our plan is to be fully online with K-12 content delivery on April 6. We know you may have many questions and you want to be as prepared as possible so that your child can be successful in the virtual learning environment. That is also our goal. So, what can you expect?

1. During the week of March 30, teachers will be piloting various technology tools each day and will have students test those tools. We will communicate the expectations for students next week but will focus on access and use of technology and checking in with each student. No academic learning will occur during the week of March 30. We will also provide technology help desk information.
2. Our continuity of learning plan begins on Monday, April 6 for students. A weekly schedule and routine will be shared with families no later than Friday, April 3. The following factors are being used to develop that schedule:
 - a. A schedule that allows for flexibility and does not mandate specific learning times.
 - b. Expectations will be focused on essential learning.
 - c. Realistic timelines and accommodations for both teachers and students.
 - d. Understanding that technology devices may be shared by family members.
 - e. Recognizing adults may not be available during day hours for students who need supervision and assistance.

Meal pickup continues from 11 AM - 12 PM on weekdays at the WHS Main Entrance. You do not need to pre-register and do not need to have a child at Whitnall to pick up the meal nor have children present in the vehicle.

Thank you for your continued support through this challenging time. Continue to enjoy spring break and take the extra time allotted to us to enjoy the company of others, the benefits of nature, and the opportunity to just pause.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa L. Olson".

Lisa L. Olson, Ph.D.
Superintendent