

Students, Families and Community Members:

Earlier today, I had the opportunity to meet with our teachers, para-professionals and other critical staff members to discuss plans moving forward.

First, we've broken down our student academic expectations into two categories:

Phase I

- Begins now and will last during the mandatory closure announced by Governor Pritzker on Friday afternoon. The closure is scheduled through Monday, March 30.

- During this period, our goal will be to provide you with suggested materials that can assist our students in staying engaged. Activities will be age appropriate. No grades will be assessed during this time, although students may eventually be held accountable for the work that is shared during the closure. Our HS students may still have long range projects and assignments that they'll be responsible for but the material we provide them now will supplement the discussions they're having in class.

- **We do not intend on putting any additional stress on families and do not expect our parents to become teachers.** The guidance provided by the State Board of Education simply asks that we all do our part to encourage students to remain academically engaged in some fashion.

- You or your student will be hearing from teachers today or tomorrow about suggested activities. If older, they may be reminded about long term assignments and other related material on the subject matter being studied.

- Think of it as an extension of Spring Break with some suggested activities to help keep children focused. Our Spring Break is actually coming at a pretty good time as we navigate this issue.

Phase II

- Any long term closures beyond March 30 would potentially be covered by Phase II. I'm not in a position to make predictions, but given the news the last 24 hours we'd be prudent to prepare long term.

- This is where Remote Learning would kick-in and some of the plans our teachers have made over the weekend would be fully implemented.

- The delay in collection of academic work allows our staff the time to fully assess a number of variables as we determine the best course of action moving forward.

Other important items to bring to your attention:

- The buildings will be open 8:00-3:00 tomorrow (Tues, March 17) for any additional items that may need to be picked up. Clerical staff will be in each office from 8:00-2:00 through Friday, March 20.
- Lunch is available through Friday at the high school cafeteria. All district students are eligible to participate. Please call 925-3461 or email Mrs. Gray at laura.gray@d702.org by 10:00 a.m. each day so we can prepare enough food. Delivery is available for students who are shut-in with limited options. Let us know when you order.
- We're working on a meal plan over spring break and will inform you later in the week.
- Representatives from all Tremont churches have been invited to a meeting at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 17 in the HS Cafetorium to discuss ways any identified needs in the community might be met. If there's anything we can do to assist our families, please reach out to the phone number listed above or Mrs. Gray's email. Again, we will email additional information later in the week.

We are committed to meeting the needs of our students and families during this time. Your patience over the weekend was greatly appreciated as we attempted to navigate a quickly changing situation.

Thank you,

Jeff Hinman
Superintendent

