

**Notes From the Superintendent**  
**Festus R-VI School District**  
**COVID-19 Update [Monday, 3/23/20]**

Good Morning. I want to take a moment and provide you, our parents, staff and stakeholders, a quick update on COVID-19 as it pertains to the Festus R-VI School District.

You may have heard, St. Louis City and St. Louis County have both extended the “*stay at home*” mandate until April 23. Today, Jefferson County Executive Dennis Gannon issued a similar order until April 23. Based upon the spread of the virus along with how quickly and easily it is transmitted, it is in the best interest of our school community to extend the current closure of all Festus R-VI Schools through Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> with a hopeful return date of Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Until then, our operations will continue with students working with teachers online or with packets and encouraging learning opportunities at home. The ‘To Go’ Meal Program will continue during the closure.

Many of you are likely wondering when we will return to school. To be completely honest, I do not know that answer. However, every effort will be made to salvage even a portion of our remaining school year, up to and including Graduation.

In the meantime, I sincerely urge ALL of you to comply with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control which includes social distancing AND staying at home. COVID-19 is unprecedented and will take EVERYONE doing their part to end this health crisis.

As with prior challenges, we know that R-VI will always pull together to overcome any obstacle - #WeAreFestus. Parents and guardians, you are doing an awesome job. Teachers and staff, you are rising to the challenges presented and exceeding expectations. Students, you are the heartbeat of our school community and it is you who have been impacted the most. You are amazing in every sense of the word, and have adjusted to this “new normal” better than anyone could have imagined. All around, the collective positive attitude of R-VI Stakeholders is to be commended.

In closing, - I want to sincerely say to all R-VI parents and students on behalf of ALL R-VI Staff - Know that during this extended closure - we love you, we miss you, and we can't wait to see you in person once COVID-19 is defeated. Festus is FAMILY! Festus is HOME! It is heartwarming to see how much everyone cares about each other.

We are All in This Together and We Will All Get Through This Together!!

Stay tuned for further updates throughout the coming days & weeks. As always, I'll be here for you so don't hesitate to contact me with any thoughts or questions. I'm proud to serve as R-VI Superintendent. Stay Well and Safe.

*Link*

Link Luttrell, Ed.D  
Superintendent  
Festus R-VI

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