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A Message From the Festus R-VI School District



Educating All Children to Meet Tomorrow's Challenges

Notes From the Superintendent

March 17, 2020

Extended School Closure due to COVID-19

All,

The clock will soon strike 5 p.m. at which time all R-VI Schools will close through Friday, April 3, 2020. I sincerely say 'thank you' for your patience and cooperation during the unforeseen extended school closure and at the same time, do know that I will continue to communicate with our R-VI School Community during the duration of this school closure.

First, it is important that during the closure attention be given to the well-being of your families. The main purpose of this closure is to assist the global efforts to limit further spread of COVID-19. Thus, it is imperative that everyone make every effort to follow recommended guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Most of all, when able, stay home and avoid large public gatherings. When you must go into the public domain, strive to implement social distancing. Your health is important to both your family and our students.

The R-VI campus will have limited activity during the closure. However, essential school related business will be conducted.

I've been asked how this closure will impact the remainder of our school year calendar. Per state statute, students are required to have a minimum number of instructional hours per year. Based upon current guidelines set forth by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), all days missed due to a school closure for COVID-19 will need to be made up at the end of the school year. However, that being said, DESE has indicated a willingness to waive the instructional hours component. Once formal clarification/notification on the matter is received, I will communicate immediately to all members of the R-VI family.

R-VI will be providing 'To Go' meals for students beginning Tuesday, March 23rd through Friday, April 3rd at the upper cafeteria parking lot from 10 a.m. – Noon each day. At the time of pick-up, a packaged lunch for the day will be provided along a breakfast for the following day. The 'to go' meals will be provided at no cost and are available to students age 18 or under. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, we ask that you click this link <https://forms.gle/KbmHsBbCs4ZBFCft6> and fill out the form so we know how many meals to prepare each day.

While schools are closed, it is our goal to minimize any learning gap for our students. Teachers will not expect students to submit work to be grades during this closure. However, many varied learning opportunities for all students K-12 will be made available during the closure. None of this work is required, however it is strongly encouraged to help give students some structure and a sense of normalcy during these abnormal times.

By clicking on the link below, you will be directed to a Google Drive. Inside that drive are folders for each building. Inside those folders are grade level or subject level folders that will contain the resources your child can access to keep their minds active and sharp during our extended break. Right now, some grades have already uploaded their activities; others will be uploading theirs by the end of

the week. Check back often if you don't find something in one of the folders. If you should happen to misplace this link, it will also be found on the Coronavirus page on our website: festus.k12.mo.us and on each school's Facebook page.

Google Drive

link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OVTGf0Z3Q5_NThKiOGsMKeRdm8KEumlS

Elementary School students can also access Mrs. Reando's

Website: <https://sites.google.com/a/festusedu.com/reando-s-techie-tigers/>

Closing schools for a duration of weeks definitely creates challenges for our students, families as well as our staff due to childcare, work, or other considerations. Yet, it is essential to remain positive and flexible during this time of uncharted waters. So many questions for which we do not have a definite answer are out of our control. Thus, there is NO NEED to worry about those things at this juncture. Take care of YOU and YOUR Family. When the appropriate time arrives, we can all collaboratively work together to address successfully any challenge that remains present.

On a side note, the R-VI Board of Education will have their regular scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 7 p.m. However, taking the recommendation from the CDC about limiting public gatherings to 10 people or less, the [R-VI Board of Education will have the open session meeting available via or WEBSITE, FACEBOOK LIVE, YOUTUBE or the BOXCAST APP ON ROKU](#). Public streaming the meeting will allow for no individual to be placed in a compromising position simply for wanting to follow the business of the R-VI District. Only the Board of Education members and other essential individuals needed to conduct the meeting will be present in the actual meeting room area. Again, in times of a National Emergency, everyone must take extraordinary measures in an effort to maintain a sense of normalcy.

I will keep each of you in my thoughts during this closure and will remain committed to serving our entire R-VI School Community in the days and weeks ahead. Stay tuned for continued updates that will be e-mailed, posted to our website, www.festusk12.mo.us and official R-VI Facebook Page. Of course, if ever you have any thoughts or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I truly am thankful for the opportunity to serve the great patrons of Festus R-VI. We will get through this TOGETHER!

Link

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