



Festus R-VI School District <popekevin@festusedu.com>

Notes from the Superintendent - 3/20/20

1 message

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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

To: **All Festus R-VI Parents**

COVID19 Impact – *as of Friday 3/20/20*

All,

I sincerely hope each of you are taking care of yourself and your family. That should always remain your first priority. I've put together a quick 'list' of actions that have been or will be taken in the days ahead by R-VI in response to COVID-19. ***We all hope for the best case scenario, even as we may prepare for the worst. Prudence and precaution is not a sign of fearfulness but rather thinking much more of others than ourselves. Your support and patience during the past weeks has been nothing short of amazing. I'm proud to call Festus R-VI my family!!!!***

I do apologize for not being more detailed with each bullet point but wanted to be concise as much as possible. Everyone knows I have a tendency to be long-winded...ha.

1. Current Closure of District Schools Remains in Effect through Friday 4/3.
2. All current employees are being paid for regular work hours that would have been worked had a closure not been necessary. -- All are expected to be 'On Call'. I'm amazed at the creativity from our Certificated Staff in

being so eager and enthusiastic to make the best out of this unfortunate situation and **tremendous** is the word to use in describing their performance thus far. Students **DO WANT** to see us CONNECT. **They Do Need Us** at this time. I can assure you that ALL of our staff will continue to Engage, Engage, and Engage with students and parents.

3. Food Distribution begins at FES on Tuesday 3/24. 10 am. – Noon. Any student age 18 or less. Drive Thru format. Currently 120 sign-ups. As of now, we are good in terms of workers needed. However, that could change as we move forward. We have had a multitude of individuals make it known they will assist this effort if asked. That attitude is awesome and you will definitely be contacted if the need is warranted. **Sign-up for the 'To Go' meals can still be made at <https://tinyurl.com/tzoue92>**
4. No School Sponsored Activities/Events during this closure - Nor may External Groups Use Facilities.
5. **Essential Staff Only** on Campus - - - Encouraging Staff to Remain Home and conduct school related business remotely via online, phone, or text to the maximum extent possible.
6. External contractors will be permitted to conduct pre-approved work on campus during the duration of any closure.
7. No State Testing for 2019-20 per Commissioner Vandeven statement made on 3/19/20.
8. Will Re-assess closure week of 3/30.
9. No decision yet on extending closure. But **MUST** face the music that an extended closure is possible. **Big factor is that even with an extended closure, there is no way to know at this juncture WHEN a return date could be set.**
10. If closure is extended...**DESE WILL FORGIVE** all instructional hours missed due to closure and will not allow a financial impact on final Average Daily Attendance as it pertains to funding.
11. If Closure extended, **there may be a need to somewhat modify expectations** in terms of continuing to provide the daily/weekly learning opportunities. Those enhancements would need to be identified and that is where collaboration from all stakeholders will be crucial. A big factor to consider though as we move to expand learning opportunities is ensuring availability to **ALL** as well as having needs/accommodations in place for 504/IEP students. Stay tuned.
12. Format for Food Distribution will be re-assessed if closure is extended beyond 4/3.
13. Despite closure, **every effort** will be made to have Graduation. Just NOT sure WHEN or WHAT that may look like. Graduation should be a Non-Negotiable.
14. Extended closure would negate all spring sports season.
15. Plan at this time is to move forward and receive bids for the Performing Arts Center. It is felt that at this time, there will be a high number of General Contractors interested in this work and as a result may sharpen their pencil to truly position themselves for the work. The end result should in the long-term benefit both the General Contractor as well as Festus R-VI.
16. All state-wide municipal elections have been moved to June 2, 2020 at the earliest. Until the election is held and results certified, the R-VI Board of Education shall remain in place. For the duration of the State & National Emergency declaration, all meetings of the R-VI Board of Education will be streamed LIVE via Facebook and our District Website.

Responses to COVID19 at ALL levels remains Very FLUID...I **do SINCERELY Appreciate the Coming Together from EVERYONE**. The pulling together from all segments of our School Community without a doubt displays loud and clear why Festus R-VI is truly such a GREAT School District. **It is extremely evident that Everyone CARES about the Success of One Another!!!**

Stay tuned for continued updates as we navigate through these unprecedented circumstances.

Do Know that I'm here to Support & Connect with You in whatever manner possible. I'm at the office daily and am making myself available 24/7. Never hesitate to reach out with any need, question, or thought. You can also **Follow** me on **Twitter** at **FestusR6Supt**

We Will Get Through This Together!!!

#WeAreFestus

Link

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