



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

Notes from the Superintendent

1 message

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Sat, Mar 21, 2020 at 3:38 PM

Reply-To: luttrellink@festusedu.com

To: popekevin@festusedu.com

A Message From the Festus R-VI School District



Educating All Children to Meet Tomorrow's Challenges

Notes From the Superintendent

Saturday, March 21, 2020

COVID-19 Update

Earlier today, Governor Parsons announced a mandatory 'Stay at Home Order and School Closure through April 6th.

However, the 'Stay at Home' order does define what is considered 'essential services/personnel' and Food Distributors are classified within that realm. Thus, our scheduled 'To Go' Meal Pick-up program set to begin Tuesday, March 24th **will continue as planned**. The 'stay at home mandate' does not prohibit travel to a grocery store and a Food Distribution program would be similar to a 'grocery' store. If you still have not signed up to pick up a free lunch and breakfast, you can sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/tzoue92> Lunches will be distributed from **10am - noon every weekday beginning Tuesday, March 24**. If you sign up, we ask that you be sure to pick up your lunch, so they aren't wasted.

Again, a decision on the remainder of our school year will be made as the April 6th date nears. However, as in my earlier correspondence, we must now consider the inherent possibility that a return may not occur. However, at this juncture, it is not even possible to know or even guess what that date will be known.

Yet, I can assure you that that our R-VI staff will continue to provide learning opportunities via online platforms or paper packet. Most important is that EVERYONE (parents, students, staff, patrons, etc.) continue to be flexible and positive as we navigate the extraordinary challenges associated with this closure to our normal operations.

Even in a time of uncertainty, it is important to find the 'sunshine' that sheds light on the many aspects that one can offer 'thanks'. I thank our parents for being patient and understanding as the decision to close school was made with little forewarning. I thank our students for their understanding and positive attitude as their daily routines ave been significantly altered. I thank and commend our staff for making a seamless transition into the sudden 'new normal' of providing instruction and connecting with our students via nontraditional avenues.

At the same time, I also say 'thank you' to our community partners, particularly the Jefferson County Department of Health. The entire staff at the health department has been extremely helpful to us as we address all challenges that COVID-19 continues to present. I've been grateful for their expertise and compassion as we have made decisions in the past days/weeks. I know they will continue to offer valuable wisdom in the days ahead once the appropriate time arrives for determining a re-opening of schools.

As I stated earlier, during any times of challenge, it is important to remain positive. Having such great partners at all levels of our school community makes remaining positive VERY EASY.

Continue to take care of yourself and your families. If ever I can be of assistance, please feel free to reach out to me via email, text, phone, etc. [Just DO NOT violate the mandated 'stay at home' order....ha].

Talk to you soon and Stay Tuned for Additional Updates. I will be here for you.

We Will Get Through This Together.

Link

#WeAreFestus

Festus R-VI School District, 1515 Mid-Meadow Lane, Festus, MO 63028, 636-937-4920

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