

To the Greenwood School Community,

Yesterday afternoon, Governor Holcomb extended his original May 1 school closure order to now be effective for the rest of the 2019-20 school year. Whereas this is devastating to all of us for so many reasons, we certainly support it and to be honest, was expected.

I know this brings about a new set of questions and concerns. As I said earlier, this was not unexpected and we have embarked on our preparation for remote learning knowing that school closure for the rest of the year was a strong possibility. I can guarantee you (because I have seen many of the preparations in person or virtually) that our staff has been working hard this week to make April 6th go as smoothly as possible. Whether it was my involvement in a number of virtual meetings, seeing our technology staff get 1,100 computers around for distribution, witnessing our cafeteria staff being so excited to see parents and students during food distribution, or hearing our administrators brag about the efforts of our educators, this week has done nothing but strengthen my resolve that we WILL make this happen. Parents, your patience, cooperation, understanding, and offers to help in any way possible continue to show me what the “Greenwood Way” symbolizes.

Attached is the schedule for the rest of the school year. April is no different than what I previously sent to you. May is a fairly similar schedule. The last student day will be May 19th. Again, I have talked about all of us having grace and patience during this time. I will reiterate that today as well. We feel that we have prepared about as well as we can. However, this will be far from perfect for all us. Let’s keep that in mind and make a promise to all that we will work collaboratively during this time, particularly in the times of struggle with a different mode of learning. I’m going to use a quote I use with our new teachers during orientation from a Dave Matthews Band song, “..... Lean upon me, I’ll lean upon you, we’ll be okay”. Let’s also all continue to do our part to help curb the spread of this awful life threatening and life changing pandemic.

What about school related activities through May? The short answer is they are all canceled. Three items I know that are on the minds of parents with children on both ends of the age spectrum:

- 1) Kindergarten registration – This will be done remotely with more information to follow.
- 2) Graduation ceremony – We will look to honor our seniors that deserve a graduation ceremony. Unfortunately, we don’t know when that will happen or what that will look like. Again, more information to follow.
- 3) Senior coursework and graduation requirements – State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. McCormick yesterday stated that “all high school seniors on track to graduate before school buildings were closed on March 19 will be provided with the flexibility they need to earn an Indiana diploma”. Further guidance was released last evening from the Indiana State Board of Education. We will analyze this guidance further to determine how it impacts each senior individually and further information will be released as soon as possible by our high school principal, Mr. Garrison.

Other answers to questions that may be on the minds of our parents:

- 1) I know that students have lockers and desks full of school district items and personal items. We will communicate with you down the road as to how lockers and desks can be cleared.

- 2) Information regarding refunds for field trips or other activities that have been canceled will be forthcoming.
- 3) We have no decision at this time regarding summer activities. We know that we will NOT conduct “on site” summer school in any of our buildings.
- 4) Spring sports have been officially canceled.

In keeping with the recent “stay home” order issued in Johnson County through May 1, our school grounds and buildings remain closed. This includes elementary playgrounds and athletic fields. Essential personnel will be in the buildings at various times. School staff will be checking emails and voicemails on a regular basis. Your school building administrators and teachers will be your first contact for specific information regarding your child.

I will continue to send regular updates through school messenger as needed. I know the impact of the mandated school closure has impacted all of us personally in a variety of ways. So much of our educational journey are those experiences that in times like this we won't be able to “get back”. This makes me sad, frustrated, and a whole lot of other emotions that I'm sure our students and parents are feeling as well. At the same time, let's all look to focus on the larger picture of working together to do all we can to have life return to “normal” so that we don't miss out on the next round of life experiences that are important to us.

With sadness, grace, patience and continued hope,

Kent DeKoninck, Ph.D.
Superintendent