



ALL KYRENE SCHOOLS TO REMAIN CLOSED TO STUDENTS FOLLOWING SPRING BREAK

March 12, 2020

Dear Kyrene Community,

After careful consideration, in consultation with the Kyrene Governing Board, I have made the decision to close all Kyrene schools in order to help contain the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

The Kyrene Emergency Management Team has been monitoring the global spread of COVID-19 for weeks, and evidence is mounting that social distancing is the most successful containment strategy. By the time a member of our Kyrene community is diagnosed with COVID-19, it could be too late to stop the spread.

I want to assure all families and staff that every decision, from preventative measures like deep cleaning of our campuses to this ultimate decision to close our schools, has been made only after thoughtful consideration of the facts and the potential impact on our community. We often say that student and staff safety is our top priority, and never has that been more true than in this moment.

As you know from our previous communication, dating back to February, Kyrene has been engaged in conversation with both County and State health and education officials and has followed all guidelines for preventing the spread of disease. However, I believe the time has now come for an important shift.

All Kyrene schools will be closed beginning Tuesday, March 17, through at least Friday, March 20. The Kyrene Governing Board will meet Tuesday evening to discuss the length of the closure.

To be clear, this means students will not return from spring break. A separate message will be sent to Kyrene employees in the next 24 hours regarding plans for staffing, telecommuting and continued operations while schools are closed to students.

Kyrene School District has already prepared for this possibility and has contingency plans in place to meet student needs. Kyrene will continue to provide meals for students who rely on us for lunch or breakfast. Further details about these food provisions will be coming in a subsequent email and will soon be provided on our website, www.kyrene.org/911 along with extensive information and answers to frequently asked questions.

Our District has sufficient instructional minutes to sustain a prolonged closure while still meeting State educational requirements. However, it is our intention to provide remote learning if the closure lasts for an extended period of time (longer than a week or two). The Kyrene Curriculum team is pro-actively working on a plan for the remote learning process that will serve our entire student population.

District leadership and the Kyrene Emergency Management Team are meeting tomorrow to develop detailed information for our community on everything from meal service to extracurricular activities. Should you have any specific questions, I encourage you to reply to this email, and I promise that your question will be brought before the team for consideration.

The Governing Board and I, along with the rest of Kyrene School District, share a responsibility to provide a safe environment for students and staff, in order to ensure high-quality learning. Kyrene schools will reopen when we are confident we can ensure that safe learning environment.

Sincerely,

Jan Vesely, Ed.D.

Our Vision: All students achieve at their maximum potential to become problem-solvers, creators, and visionaries of tomorrow.

Our Mission: Kyrene School District will commit to student success for all, by providing engaging, challenging educational environments which promote and inspire passion for learning, leading, and achieving transformative life outcomes.

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