March 20, 2020

Dear Families

Today, Governor Ducey announced an extension of our school closures in Arizona through April 10. This closure is longer than we originally anticipated, but we fully support protecting the health and safety of our students, staff, and families.

We have plans in place to serve our students and families during this closure.

Learning Opportunities

We are committed to finding meaningful ways to serve each and every student during this closure. Starting next week, teachers will be reaching out to students to connect and share information/stories with one another.

By March 30, students will have learning opportunities in multiple subject areas. If you need help accessing these materials or to secure printed copies, please respond to your student’s teacher. We will also be sharing resources with parents to help you support your child.

We know that it will take time for all of us to adjust to these remote learning opportunities, and we anticipate refining and enhancing this work as we learn more. Our teachers return from break on Monday and will be working remotely to continue planning lessons and engaging in professional learning. Educators will continue to work and be accessible throughout the closure.

While we know this learning will be different from what goes on in classrooms every day, we are excited to be able to continue engaging our students in meaningful learning opportunities during this challenging time. Many thanks to all our educators, staff, families, and our students for your patience and flexibility as we work together to serve each and every student in our district.

Family Services

We know that this extended closure will impact many of our families and we have plans in place to support other student needs while our schools are closed.

- Meals will be available to any child under the age of 18 at several locations from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. daily. During that time, children will receive a breakfast and a lunch. We will be opening more locations in order to better meet the needs of our community. Please check our website often for more information.
We will offer support to families wishing to help students access online learning options. We will offer Zoom meetings for parents so you can learn how to help with login or other access issues, and will be checking email regularly in order to provide other supports.

Protecting Your Health

We encourage you to continue to follow existing guidelines to protect your own health. The Centers for Disease Control recommends:

- Washing hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds; use alcohol-based sanitizer if no water is available
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact (within 6 feet) with those who are sick
- Stay home if sick • Cover cough or sneeze with tissue, throw tissue in trash, wash hands
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

The Arizona State Department of Health has additional guidelines for protecting yourself at this time.

Stay Connected

We all know school is so much more than school, and no matter how innovative we get with distance learning, it isn’t a replacement. Our students need the connections, relationships, and resources our teachers and staff provide. We all need one another during this time. It will be a challenge to do this well. I know we will all do our best.

We will continue to provide regular updates on our Coronavirus (COVID-19) page. Thank you for your patience, understanding, and support as we all work through this challenging time together.

Be well,

Dr. JoEtta Gonzales
Superintendent