

Dear Prairie Creek Community School Families,

Thank you families for your patience and understanding during this difficult time. We have had amazing support and encouragement from families. The PCCS teachers and hourly staff have been just incredible as we respond to the fast-changing responses to this global pandemic health crisis. As a reminder, we will hold a regular school day on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. We are excusing all absences for families who wish to keep their children at home. Here are some important updates:

Child care for emergency and health care workers.

In order to make sure we have a plan for childcare for PCCS families through the end of spring break, we have collaborated with our authorizer. During the statewide closure of Minnesota schools, [Northfield Public Schools will provide childcare for children in Kindergarten through age 12 from families of healthcare workers and other emergency providers.](#)

This childcare is available for PCCS families of healthcare workers and other emergency providers ONLY regardless of whether they have used PCCS After School Care school-age care services in the past. Thank you to all the families who responded to the child care need request today, it was helpful to be about to give our Northfield partners a projection of numbers that might access this service. [In order to prepare for the appropriate number of children, Northfield is asking that you complete this survey if you plan to access the service.](#) ****Please complete this survey that is vital to Northfield's childcare planning by 2:00 pm on Tuesday, March 17, 2020.****

This survey is for Northfield's planning purposes only. Should school closings extend beyond spring break, we will communicate child care provision options to qualifying families.

Food distribution for students in need

Prairie Creek is making provision to begin food distribution for students in need for Wednesday, March 18 - Friday, March 20 2020.

Computer / Internet access needs

While we know that most families have access to internet service, we will help guide families with limited or no access to free resources being made available during this emergency situation. [Charter Spectrum is offering free service](#) beginning today for 60 days. Families must access this option individually. We are happy to assist with questions. Cellular providers like T-Mobile are providing unlimited data to customers, so you may be able to turn your phone "hotspot" on to allow this access. Teachers have been surveying families about computer and internet needs today. We began the process of

sending home chromebooks and ipads. We will be sending home more guidance and information regarding technology over the coming days.

Distance learning (e-Learning) planning

The earliest any distance learning will start at Prairie Creek is March 31, 2020. We are busy working on this plan already and teachers will be meeting on Thursday and Friday this week to finalize our plan and communicate with families and children about how it will be delivered should it be needed. We have determined that it would be prudent to start sending home some materials in the meantime (library books, for example). Emails from teachers will explain more. Know that we will develop provision to get materials to families of children who were not in school today as needed. If your child receives Special Education services, there will be communication coming from each case manager as we develop this plan. We are committing to developing a plan that equitably meets every child's needs.

Our own mental health.

In the absence of any soccer to watch (my usual stress relief), I'm creating more space to read books and have conversation with important people in my life - clearly a good thing. Yes, even during a pandemic I can work a soccer reference into my message.. This is, of course, a stressful time for all of us. We are in an unprecedented situation. Dr. Matt Hillmann shared this [video](#) which encourages us all to consider how to take care of ourselves.

Again, thank you for your patience, understanding, support, and forgiveness during this global pandemic health crisis. I am grateful, at this time and at all times, to be part of the Prairie Creek community.

Sincerely,

Simon