

PCCS COVID-19 Message for Families 3.15.20

Good afternoon! I am sending this message as part of a coordinated effort with our authorizer, the Northfield School District, to keep you up to date. We are all working together closely and consistently to follow the guidance we are receiving.

At a press conference this morning, Governor Walz announced he is ordering Minnesota school districts close their campuses from March 18-27, 2020 to help contain the spread of COVID-19. Our plans are developing quickly and we will have much more information to share with you in the future. The health of children, families, staff and community is our top priority. Many details about the topics below will be communicated to you on Monday, March 16. For now, I wanted to share some very important information.

- We will operate with a **regular schedule on Monday, March 16, and Tuesday, March 17, 2020.** Families may opt to keep their students at home and this will be considered an excused absence. Please continue to follow our regular process of contacting the school if your student will be absent.
- There will be **no school or e-Learning days scheduled for March 18, 19, and 20.** This is an adaptation of our e-Learning plan based on this emergency situation and it will allow teachers time to prepare longer-term online learning approaches should school closures extend beyond this initial period because of the pandemic health crisis.
- We will be canceling all volunteers and visitors to school on Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17. Thank you for your understanding.
- **All after school activities are canceled** beginning Monday, during this entire time, at least through the end of Spring Break on March 30.
- Students will be able to check out as many library books as they would like to support their literacy during the closure and over spring break.
- We will be developing a plan to support families with technology needs at home. More details on this will be provided tomorrow.
- After School Care will operate using a regular schedule Monday and Tuesday and will not be available between March 18 and March 30.
- A plan is being developed to support families with food support needs. We will provide more detailed information about available meal support on Monday, March 16.
- Child care for parents who are healthcare workers or emergency workers will be provided. Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to provide additional services to families in other professions. We will provide detailed information about child care services for those who qualify on Monday, March 16.
- Internet access at home will be an important part of your child's education during this period. Internet service providers including Charter Spectrum are providing free access to families impacted by school closures. For more information, visit:
<https://www.spectrum.com/browse/content/spectrum-internet-assist>
- We are planning to reopen schools with a regular schedule on Tuesday, March 31, however, it is possible that may change.
- We are committed to compensating our employees for any lost time due to COVID-19 related closures.

- The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) has provided guidance for parents to talk with their children about COVID-19. See attached.

You may see other schools that are closed on Monday/Tuesday. Many of these closures are the result of those schools coming off of Spring Break and made the decision not to re-open.

Thank you for your understanding, patience and support during this rapidly changing pandemic health crisis. The safety and support of our students, families, staff, and communities are our top priority. Prairie Creek will continue to update families on weekdays, even over spring break, with additional information and on weekends as needed.

Sincerely,
Simon