

March 13, 2020

Dear valued District 70 families and staff,

The COVID-19 pandemic is presenting unique challenges to the world community. Although District 70 has no known COVID-19 cases, I have made the decision to close schools to safeguard the health and wellness of our students and staff.

All District 70 schools and the district office, as well as Champions child care, will be closed beginning on Monday, March 16, 2020. We anticipate being able to return to school on Monday, April 6, 2020. During the break, we will be performing cleaning and disinfecting above and beyond our established practices at all schools and the district office.

This decision was made after consultation with local school officials about the need to practice social distancing and limit gatherings of large groups. Our decision aligns with similar actions being taken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by our neighboring school districts. Although I fully acknowledge that this will create a hardship for many of us, I sincerely believe it is the right thing to do to limit the spread of COVID-19 and keep our students, families, and employees healthy.

School principals will be at their schools between 9 and 11 a.m. on Monday, March 16, for parents who need to pick up their child's medication to use over the next three weeks.

District 70 has compiled a variety of learning activities and resources that will be regularly updated for families and/or students to consider accessing at this [link](#). These activities are **optional** and are designed to extend learning, but not replace classroom instruction or serve as "e-learning" days that would otherwise count as a day of attendance. With that being said, the Illinois State Board of Education has relaxed requirements for school districts to submit e-learning plans. Given this change, District 70 will submit the approach that we are taking for consideration as e-learning.

We are in uncharted territory here. Given the unpredictable nature of this pandemic, it is not possible to predict where we will be in three hours much less three weeks from now. With that being said, we will tentatively plan on welcoming all students and staff back to our schools on April 6, 2020. We appreciate your understanding if that date changes.

We will use all four of our remaining emergency days built into the school calendar. Unless District 70 receives relief from the state of Illinois, this will lengthen the school

year to June 18. As such, please review your calendars and be prepared to make this adjustment.

Just like the very nature of this pandemic, there are more questions than answers and more unknowns than knowns. This includes questions about summer school and 8th Grade Graduation. We are working on how to address these and other questions and will continue to keep you informed throughout this process. Your child's building administrator(s), central office administrators, and I will be available to respond to your questions during this mitigation period.

Thank you for your partnership and understanding.

With regards,

Matt
Dr. Matt Barbini
Superintendent of Schools
Libertyville School District 70