



Knob Noster R-VIII School District

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Dr. Jerrod Wheeler, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Michael Cohron, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Angela Rolofson, Director, Student Services

Our Mission Is Student Success

Date: March 16, 2020
To: Knob Noster Public Schools Community
From: Superintendent Jerrod Wheeler
RE: Covid-19 Update (7)

Dear Knob Noster Public Schools Community,

As we continue to negotiate the Covid-19 issue, I am writing with four important and timely updates.

First, access to the internet will become an increasingly-vital tool to support social distancing functions, including our plan to deploy virtual education, should schools close. We are aware that a relatively small portion of our community population may not have access to internet services. We have become aware Charter Communications (Spectrum) is offering FREE broadband and WiFi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription at any service level up to 100 Mbps. To enroll call 1-844-488-8395. Installation fees will be waived for new student households.

In addition to Charter (Spectrum), the following link provides fingertip access to all Internet providers in Knob Noster: <https://broadbandnow.com/Missouri/Knob-Noster?zip=65336>. If you do not currently have internet access, I encourage you to consider securing internet access through this offer or other offers which may be forthcoming from providers. This will be important for many reasons. (This memo assumes cellular access.)

Second, we have created guidance for parents and students regarding setting up access through Zoom, the platform the district will utilize to deploy virtual education, should school shut down. This guidance is available on the district's Covid-19 webpage, www.knr8.net. I am providing this information now, in the instance you want to move forward and familiarize yourself with the process. A special thank you is sent to Zoom for offering their services free to K-12 schools during this issue.

Third, as of this morning, we are adding to the restrictions communicated last week and are now suspending all MSHSAA practices until further notice. In addition, this will include closing all school facilities for community use for the same time period.

Lastly, we are still in a holding pattern regarding school shut down following Spring Break. We are carefully monitoring multiple sources of information. At this time, it appears that any decision to close schools will remain at the local level and will not be directed by the state. I continue to hear a variety of opinions stating school should close/not close. Prior to my decision this Friday, I will send a parent survey to help better-inform my decision. In the absence of a State-level directive, I am taking this step to gather the majority-opinion of our parents. I am delaying this survey until later in the week, to ensure the opinions shared are as informed and as current as possible. Between now and then, please feel empowered to hold on to those opinions until the survey is provided. Rest assured, your opinions matter and will be considered. Use of a survey process leading into major/unique decisions is a practice I have used with staff and parents throughout my time at Knob Noster. It has proven highly-valuable in gaining consensus. Thank you in advance for your help!

The district will continue to archive all communication and information on our webpage which may be accessed by [clicking here](#). Or, you may visit www.knr8.net.

As always, we sincerely appreciate your understanding and partnership as we work together to serve our students and community. Should you have any questions or comments, please direct your inquiry to jwheeler@knobnoster.k12.mo.us.

Very Respectfully,
Jerrod Wheeler, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools