



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 17, 2020
To: Knob Noster Public Schools Community
From: Superintendent Jerrod Wheeler
RE: Covid-19 Update (8) – Initial School Closure

Dear Knob Noster Public Schools Community,

As we continue to negotiate the Covid-19 issue, I am writing with updated information, including a request for you to respond to a Covid-19 Planning Survey. In addition, I am asking for your help in sharing this memo broadly through our community, specifically because it focuses on how we plan to provide basic services moving forward. Thank you in advance for your time and help.

In my last email, I suggested I would provide a survey regarding school closure. At this time, 432 of Missouri's 555 school districts have indicated they are currently closed or will exercise an initial school closure in the near future. In addition, we have just learned that the Kansas Governor has closed all schools for the remainder of the school year. These significant local developments have changed my timeline and approach in making this decision.

INITIAL School Closure

At this time, Knob Noster Public Schools will implement an INITIAL school closure from Monday, March 23 through Sunday, April 5. Based on current information, it appears this closure will most likely be extended. Accordingly, our plan moving forward will be shaped by the expectation of a prolonged closure. During this closure, all school activities will be suspended and school facilities will be closed to the public. The survey below includes an opportunity for you to provide your opinion related to this decision.

Our first focus moving forward is to establish plans to meet basic needs. Your response to the survey is critical in helping us better plan and execute our response. Below are the current plans which will commence immediately next Monday, March 23.

Food Services

Knob Noster Public Schools has qualified to provide 100% FREE meals (Breakfast, Lunch, and Snack) for all individuals 18 years of age and younger and all individuals with special needs 21 years of age and younger. The district will prepare these meals as "grab and go" at Knob Noster Middle School. The meals will be delivered curbside to your vehicle Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the back parking lot. All three meals will be batched together and will include two days' worth of food. There will be no access to the school building. We have a good plan in place, but ask that you please be patient as we roll out this service.

For families currently participating in Panther Pantry, we have confirmed that these services will continue. The next scheduled delivery/pick up will occur Wednesday, March 25 from 4:00 to 6:00.

Student Medications

The survey below will gather information related to plans to return student medications that are currently at school.

Community Support Services

The survey also includes an opportunity to provide information regarding any additional services which may be needed, so that we may assess and align those to known community resources or agencies.

Educational Services

From March 23 to March 30, our district support staff will focus on planning and delivering basic services as described above. During this week, we will ask Knob Noster Teachers, a team that is among the top educational teams in the state and nation, to collaborate to develop a plan to deliver virtual education for our students. While we may or may not end up deploying this plan, we will move forward with the expectation that this will occur. Accordingly, we will expect students to begin receiving instruction from the district on Monday March 30.

Internet Access

As a reminder, information related to internet access options was provided in Memo # 7. In addition, we have communicated current internet hot spots available to you. We will assess options to expand these services.

Graduation for Seniors

For our Seniors, you will no doubt have one of the most memorable years in recent history....the Knob Noster High School class of 2020 has excelled in so many ways, to help move our school, our academic and extracurricular programs, and our community ahead in so many ways. As we move forward, rest assured we will exercise all options to ensure you receive your diploma.

Continuity of Business

For employees, we have received confirmation that state funding will continue. Accordingly, there will be no interruption in pay or benefits. I am confident that each and every member of the KNPS Team will put forward her/his best effort to serve our students, serve our community, and help one another. In Knob Noster Public Schools, Our Mission Is Student Success...and the mission will succeed through this situation.

Dynamic Environment

Clearly, this situation is evolving by the day if not by the hour. While we are working to put our best effort forward, we will make mistakes. The key to success moving forward will be to focus on mutual respect for all involved. I want to say thank you to the many people who have sent messages and comments of support and encouragement. That means a lot to me and to our team. We are just getting started, and already the true colors of the Knob Noster community are shining brightly. We have a great community, and I look forward to finding our way forward together.

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.

[Click Here to Complete the Survey](#) Please complete survey by Thursday, March 19 at 12:00 p.m.

Very Respectfully,

Jerrold Wheeler, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools