



# Knob Noster R-VIII School District

401 E. Wimer, Knob Noster, MO 65336  
Office: (660) 563-3186 Fax: (660) 563-3026  
Student Services: (660) 563-5597

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 24, 2020  
To: Knob Noster Public Schools Community  
From: Superintendent Jerrod Wheeler  
RE: Covid-19 Update (11) – Updates and Town Hall Announcement

Dear Knob Noster Public Schools Community,

As we continue to negotiate the Covid-19 issue, I am writing with updated information. I want again say thank you to our parents, community, and employees who continue to work through this challenge together! The ongoing communication has been excellent and has helped us move forward with informed decisions. Please keep up the great communication and partnership! Below are some important updates:

### Shelter in Place – Social Distancing

The district has implemented a mandatory “no-physical report” for all employees with the exception of some employees who must be physically present to perform essential functions. For those employees who are physically present, they have chosen to do so voluntarily to help ensure services to our students and families continue. While we have not moved to a Shelter in Place requirement in the county, our district has essentially made this move at this time.

### District Hotlines

As we move forward, we recognize that this situation is dynamic and things are changing daily. In an effort to streamline our processing of services and responses, I am providing the following district hotline contacts for you to use for direct communication. We ask that you direct questions to these contacts based on your specific needs. We will also be channeling communications sent to other district employees through the channels to help us process responses.

**Food Services** – Mrs. Trish Kolat – [tkolat@knr8.net](mailto:tkolat@knr8.net)

Please direct all questions, requests, changes in plans, delivers of food etc. to this address.

**Technology** – Mrs. Amy Wellman – [awellman@knr8.net](mailto:awellman@knr8.net)

Please direct all questions, requests, repairs, device return inquires to this address.

**Education** – Individual Teachers – Building Principals

As we move through this process, please direct questions specific to your child’s education to the appropriate teacher. Likewise, questions that relate to a specific building may be directed to the building principal.

**General Troubleshooting or Questions** – Mrs. Charity Hatcher – [chatcher@knr8.net](mailto:chatcher@knr8.net)

Please direct all other troubleshooting / questions / issues etc. to this address.

Phone numbers may be added in the future, however email is the quickest and best way to get help at this time.

### Student Device Pick Up

For those students who were not in session prior to Spring Break or who otherwise were not able to make it home with their device, please email [awellman@knr8.net](mailto:awellman@knr8.net) providing that information as well as details on where the device is located, locker, desk, etc. The district will collect those devices and take them to Knob Noster High School. They will be available for pick up Friday, March 27, from 9:00 to 12:00. If you need the device delivered to your home, please include

that in your email. Students will need these devices in order to participate in our virtual learning beginning Monday March 30th.

### **Meal Updates**

Meals will continue to be provided this Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 to 12:00 at Knob Noster Middle School. This schedule will change to Monday and Thursday from 9:00 to 12:00 starting next week (Monday, March 30). The additional service is being eliminated to reduce exposure. Three days of meals (breakfast and lunch) will be provided each day. Students DO NOT need to be present in order to receive meals. Please help us in this process by carefully avoiding any physical touching of those making these handoffs.

### **Most Eggs-cellent Service**

Beginning this week, Knob Noster's very own Rose Acre Farms will be providing free eggs to accompany the district's food service delivers. These will be provided weekly moving forward at the Knob Noster Middle School meal delivery station per the communicated schedule. A BIG thanks is sent to Rose Acre Farms!!

### **Virtual Town Hall**

The district will host a Virtual Town Hall meeting on Thursday, March 26, at 5:30 in the evening. The purpose of this meeting will be to overview current information and field questions from our parents, students, and community. Details to follow tomorrow. During this meeting, the district will announce decisions regarding extending the current school closure timeline.

### **Virtual Education Commitments**

There are many questions about what this virtual approach will look like. Our principals, teachers, and support staff will tackle that next week and will communicate this out, once these plans formalize and finalize. Again, a focus on low stress, convenience, and flexibility will serve as the foundation.

- \*Academic focus first, with emphasis on social engagement, fun, and providing experiences that are as normal as possible
- \*Flexible and/or convenient instructional periods, flexible structure, etc, will be considered by all teachers.
- \*Tiered levels of engagement/time based on age of students
- \*Focus on core academics (Math, Language Arts, Science, Social Sciences) first, followed by electives and supplemental
- \*Collaboration among teachers/courses to the fullest extent possible

### **Class of 2020 Graduation**

Although we have addressed this situation prior, we fielded many questions regarding commencement. At this time, we plan to hold commencement in some form, with our hope being the health of the country will allow for a routine ceremony. If not, we will find some way to create this important and memorable experience for our Seniors, parents, and the friends/family/community who have supported their accomplishments. We will wait as late as possible to deviate from that traditional event.

### **Dynamic Environment**

Clearly, this situation continues to evolve every day, if not every hour. Moving forward, we are keying closely on the trajectory of the virus curve locally, regionally, and nationally. One week ago, many of us were still gearing up for a relatively normal Spring Break. No doubt this week has brought many changes. Looking ahead one week, we may see far less or far more change in posture for this issue. I want to again thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate these uncharted waters. We will continue to make informed, thoughtful decisions that we believe are in the best most-immediate needs of our students and community. As shared prior, 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](http://www.knr8.net).

As always, we sincerely appreciate your understanding and partnership as we work together to serve our students and community.

Very Respectfully,

Jerrold Wheeler, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools