



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 27, 2020
To: Knob Noster Public Schools Community
From: Superintendent Jerrod Wheeler
RE: Covid-19 Update (12) – Updates and Virtual Learning Plan

Dear Knob Noster Public Schools Community,

As we continue to navigate the Covid-19 issue, I am writing with updated information as we prepare to begin virtual learning on Monday, March 30. I want to thank the parents, community members, and employees who were able to join Mr. Cohron and me for the Virtual Town Hall on Facebook Live last evening. If you were unable to join at that time, the recording is available on our district [Facebook page](#) or on our website with Covid-19 archived communications by [clicking here](#).

Extended School Closure

During the Virtual Town Hall, I announced that Knob Noster Public Schools will extend school closure through the end of the day on **April 13th**. My approach will be to announce and extend school closure in two-week increments based on the trajectory of the Covid-19 situation moving forward. I want to be clear that this in no way indicates that we expect to return to school on April 14, but rather is the second consistent decision in extending closure by two weeks. We plan to keep this two week outlook in place moving forward, unless something changes significantly. We are watching the curve of impact escalate very quickly. We hope it deescalates just as quickly on the other side, which is where the two week window may be most important. We are watching the curve of impact closely every day.

During the Virtual Town Hall, I also announced that the last day of school for students will be Thursday, May 21 at 1:00 p.m. This will allow a full four-day weekend for Families and employees around the Memorial Day Holiday. While we do not yet know what the situation will be, we wanted to provide that four day weekend.

Virtual Learning Plan

Our team of principals and teachers have prepared virtual schedules and lessons for instruction to begin on Monday. I want to again thank our team for the amazing work they have done this week. Students can now view a Virtual Learning Page for their specific classes on each school website. Please consider that lessons are still being linked to these pages as teachers add them today through Monday. It is recommended that the Virtual Learning Pages be accessed on a computer or tablet for optimal viewing. The format of the virtual learning page is altered on smartphones. Teachers will share more details with your students at the Virtual Back to School meetings later today and on Monday.

Many teachers will utilize pre-recorded Zoom meeting lessons while others may hold live meeting lessons. School dress code policy still applies for virtual learning, and we remind families to have students follow the dress code in the event that live video is used during a classroom lesson. Please also be mindful of any family members who may be moving about in the background.

[Whiteman Elementary Virtual Learning Page](#)

[Knob Noster Elementary Virtual Learning Page](#)

[Knob Noster Middle School Learning Page](#)

[Knob Noster High School Learning Page](#)

Food Services

I also shared an announcement last night that our Food Services Department will shift the schedule for “Grab and Go” meals to two days a week on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. starting on Monday, March 30. Three days’ of meals will be distributed on these two days. Pick up will remain at the back parking lot of Knob Noster Middle School.

District Hotlines

As a reminder, we ask that you direct all questions to our district hotline contacts based on your specific needs. These hotlines were established earlier this week in an effort to streamline our processing of services and responses.

Food Services – Mrs. Trish Kolat – tkolat@knr8.net

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

Technology – Mrs. Amy Wellman – awellman@knr8.net

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

Education – Individual Teachers - Building Principals

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

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

Virtual Spirit Week

Our Panther Family may not be able to see each other in person during this time, but we want to stay connected as much as possible through our virtual learning platform videos and through pictures. We miss our Panther students, and we are kicking off our virtual learning program with a Virtual Spirit Week. We hope you will join in for some fun during our first week back to school! Email your child(ren)’s photos each day to communications@knr8.net or send pictures via Messenger to the district Facebook page. We will post a photo album of students, teachers, and staff each day on our [Facebook page](#). The spirit themes for each day are provided in the attached flyer.

Class of 2020 Commencement and Last Day

We continue to plan for an appropriate wrap up to the year for our Senior Class. Seniors’ last day will be May 13, with Commencement remaining on the 17th. We are working on alternate plans and believe we have some good initial options to consider, should we have to deviate from the regular commencement process. As more information is known, we will communicate out with our seniors and parents.

As always, we appreciate your partnership and understanding as we work together to serve our students and community. Please reach out to our team if we may be of assistance.

Very Respectfully,

Jerrold H. Wheeler, Ed. D.

Superintendent of Schools



VIRTUAL SPIRIT WEEK

MARCH 30 - APRIL 3

Show us your school spirit...VIRTUALLY! Below are themed days listed for students of every age to participate in. Share your photos with us via email at communications@knr8.net or via Messenger to our Facebook page. One photo per student per day please.

Monday March 30

Miss You Monday

We're all in this together! Show your #KNPantherPride and wear your orange and black as we kick off virtual learning.

Tuesday March 31

Tuesday Tales

What are you reading? Take a selfie of you and your favorite book(s) or what you are currently reading.

Wednesday April 1

Workout Wednesday

It's great to stay active! Take a pic on a walk, working out, playing, riding your bike, etc.

Thursday April 2

Thoughts on Thursday

Share why you like being a Panther (write it on paper & hold it in your photo).

Friday April 3

Furry Friends Friday

Show us your pets! (real or stuffed animals - furry or not-so-furry) Take a pic with your pet.

#VIRTUALPANTHERS