



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: April 9, 2020
To: Knob Noster Public Schools Community
From: Superintendent Jerrod Wheeler
RE: Covid-19 Update (18) – School Cancelled through End of Regular Term + Updates

Dear Knob Noster Public Schools Community,

I want to begin this memo by again saying thank you to our students, parents, and teachers who have worked together to make our first few weeks of virtual learning go smoothly. While we continue to work out issues, it appears this has been a tremendously-successful start, and we could not have done this in any other way than working together, united, as a team. As you will see in this memo, we will continue in this arrangement at least through the end of this school year. Take a deep breath, and we will continue to get through this together.

Second Virtual Town Hall – Tomorrow, Friday April 10 @ 12:00 p.m.

With so many updates today and yesterday, we will be hosting a second Virtual Town Hall meeting tomorrow, Friday April 10 on the district Facebook Page. www.facebook.com/KnobNosterSchools We apologize for the late notice, but wanted to get this new information out before the break. The event will be recorded and available for viewing at any time.

Governor Parson Closes School through End of Regular School Term

This afternoon, Governor Parson announced that schools shall remain closed through the end of the school year. Accordingly, we will plan to continue with our virtual education delivery through the end of the year. As previously shared, our last day for the regular term will be Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. Also as previously shared, Summer School is tentatively planned for June 2 through June 25. We are awaiting more guidance or restrictions from the state before finalizing details for summer school.

Easter Break

As previously announced, Friday, April 10 through Monday, April 13 will be no-school days. Please enjoy the Easter Holiday with your family. We will see you next Tuesday online! (Grab & Go Meals will be available for pick up on Monday, April 10.)

Meal Distribution Changed to Once Per Week

As the Covid-19 curve begins to spike locally, we are taking one more preventative measure to reduce our most significant area of physical contact. Beginning next week, meal services will occur on Mondays only from 9:00 to 12:00. On this day, the food service team will offer/deliver meals for the entire week (6 days breakfast and lunch). This step is being taken to cut in half the number of exposures with this process, where we are delivering food for approximately 700 students per day. We will evaluate this change and will communicate any future changes. Please expect food lines to take a few minutes longer than normal due to the volume of food being delivered. All other procedures/details will continue as normal.

April is Month of the Military Child

April is a month that we thoroughly enjoy in KNPS as we celebrate the unique qualities, personalities, and life stories of our military-connected students. In Knob Noster, seven out of every 10 students are connected to the mission at Whiteman AFB. Throughout the month, we will recognize these students for their strength, courage, and resilience! We are proud of you, Dandelions!
#PurpleUpKNPS!

Student Grading for Fourth Quarter

As previously shared, we are approaching fourth quarter with the goal of supporting our students in their learning and providing them every opportunity to continue their learning. Regular engagement and completion of work is expected of all students. Regarding grading, no decision will be punitive. Remember, grading serves to report back where a student is performing in order to inform future learning and instruction. We will move forward providing all students the maximum opportunity to learn while also ensuring

no student has an unfair advantage or disadvantage as related to GPA's class rank, etc. Please see the end of this memo for more specifics on grading from our instructional team.

Military Family Life Counselors

As of today, our MFLCs will be available to provide Telehealth Services. These are video non-medical counseling sessions available to our students and families. If you have worked with the MFLC in your building previously, this will provide a continuity of care. If you have not this might be a good time to seek out their support and services. Please see the end of this memo for more details and contact information.

Zoom Safeguards

There has been elevated concern regarding the potential for Zoom / video meetings to be hacked and/or disrupted unexpectedly. Prior to this issue arising several weeks ago, our tech department provided guidance for safeguards to prevent this from occurring, including the mandatory use of the virtual waiting room by all teachers before adding students. While no platform is 100% risk free, we are moving forward with confidence in these safeguards to protect our students while using Zoom.

Student and Teacher Device Updates (Windows 10)

Windows 10 is requiring an update on many devices. We encourage all students and employees to run these updates in the evening or end of the instructional day in order to avoid any interruptions during learning time. If left undone, the updates may run automatically at any time, which could cause instruction to be missed. Once prompted to run the update, we encourage you to do so at the next convenient time that does not interfere with instruction or learning.

Personal Protective Equipment

Knob Noster High School's Stealth Panther Robotics students, the same team that designed and manufactured a safety part in 2019 that is now operational in the cockpit of all B-2 Bombers, is at it again. This team of incredible students has been hard at work designing, printing, and distributing hundreds and hundreds of face shields to local first responders, medical providers, agencies, and partners. Our hats are off to SPR Team 6424! These PPE devices may become available to the public once we meet those immediately-known needs.

Knob Noster Board of Education Meetings

The KNPS Board of Education meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Beginning this month, April 15, the Board will meet virtually. You are welcome to attend the meeting virtually and may do so by visiting our [Board of Education YouTube Page by clicking](#) here or by visiting us on our [Board Docs link by clicking here](#).

Mobile WIFI Hotspot Locations

NEW DEVICES PLANNED FOR DEPLOYMENT APRIL 10 – We will work from the current list until all WIFI Hotspots are deployed.

Thank you for your time to review this memo, and we hope you will be able to join us for tomorrow's Virtual Town Hall meeting. 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 Learning: Grading

Elementary Schools:

At the end of the current semester, the grade given for 4th quarter will be for the betterment of the semester grade.
Earning a "+" means that quarter's standards were introduced and the student was engaged (IE) in virtual education.

KNMS/KNHS

At the end of the current semester, the grade given for 4th quarter will be for the betterment of the semester grade.

KNHS ONLY

Since colleges and universities will set expectations for dual credit students, teachers and building leaders will help students coordinate with colleges and universities to make sure they are meeting requirements.

All Schools:

How are grades being taken during virtual learning?

Teachers will assess student performance and enter grades for assignments during virtual learning similar to in-person classes. Assignments turned in do count as a connection with teachers and will count towards a student's attendance for that class.

Can grades improve during virtual learning?

Yes, a student can continue to improve their grade through the end of the semester.

Military Family Life Counselors

We are so excited to share with you an additional resource during this unprecedented event. As many of you know we are blessed to have three Military Family Life Counselors (MFLCs) on the Knob Noster team. As of today, our MFLCs will be available to provide Telehealth Services. These are video non-medical counseling sessions available to our students and families. If you have worked with the MFLC in your building previously this will provide a continuity of care. If you have not, this might be a good time to seek out their support and services.

If you would like to schedule a non-medical video session with your building MFLC there are two easy steps:

1. Military Service Members and Family Members contact the MFLC by phone (see below) to schedule a Telehealth counseling session.
2. The MFLC will schedule the session and then send Zoom meeting information to you.

Contact Information:

Knob Noster Elementary MFLC-----732-427-0277

Whiteman Elementary MFLC-----573-742-8338

Knob Noster Middle School MFLC-----210-812-7363

Knob Noster High School MFLC-----210-812-7363

Thank you to our MFLCs-we are so happy to have you with us on this journey!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Angela Rolofson
MFLC Point of Contact Knob Noster R-VIII School District
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