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IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING COVID-19 SCHOOL CLOSURE

1 message

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To: DLPS Staff <dtps.staff@dlschools.org>

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DLPS Employees, ***PLEASE READ ENTIRE MESSAGE***

First of all thank you all for everything you are doing to ensure the Devils Lake Public Schools continue to provide quality education services to all students! You have gone above and beyond! I am grateful and proud of DLPS!

Many of us are experiencing additional stresses in our life whether directly related to COVID-19 or not. It is not easy dealing with unknowns and a constantly changing situation. In an effort to assist with the financial stressors, the Devils Lake Public School Board, approved paying all DLPS employees as per the 2019-20 budget at their meeting last night. This will include all certified and classified employees being paid as per their contract or work agreement--including bus drivers and spring coaches/advisors that may have their seasons shortened or cancelled entirely.

Classified employees will not be required to punch in and out on the timeclock during the closure. If we return to normal operations, then normal procedures go back in place. Keep in mind that you may be called in to assist with various tasks throughout the closure--covering the office phone/messages, cleaning/sanitizing/disinfecting the schools, or delivering meals or learning materials to students. It will continue to be a team effort.

Beginning Wednesday, March 25, 2020 we will begin with "Essential Staff" at each building. The "Essential Staff" at each building will be identified by the Building Principal and include the following:

*Administrator (or a designee as these folks may need a break also)

*Someone to cover the office phones/messages from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on normal school days--this must be someone that has the skills necessary for the position and each building may have a limited number of employees.

*Cleaning staff to regularly clean/sanitize/deodorize high traffic/touch areas.

NOTE--the Building Administrator will do their best to rotate staff and be as fair as possible.

Teaching Staff need to remain in contact and available to students/families by whatever methods or means that work best for the students. Relationships and the social connection is going to be more important than ever for our students as will your emotional support to the students and families.

Because we will be working with essential staff only, that does not mean you can't be in your classroom if you choose to (at least as of today, employees can still be in our schools). I am confident that most if not all of our employees can work remotely and still perform their job responsibilities but want staff to know they are at this point in time still able to come to their school.

Remember this is a health epidemic--we want to protect everyone in our community. If you are sick, communicate with your Building Administrator. WE DO NOT WANT PEOPLE IN THE SCHOOL IF THEY ARE ILL OR HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS THAT MAY BE VULNERABLE!

The Administrative Team will be putting the final touches on the District Distance Learning Plan that is due this Friday, March 27, 2020. When the document is approved (I am confident) it will be shared with all employees.

Building Administrators will be providing specific information to their staff as we move forward.

Business Office Reminder

Please continue to submit all work agreements, invoices, receipts, messages, or other information to the business office as the staff have the ability to work remotely.

Thanks again for all you do! I believe the general public is developing a much higher respect for educators as we work through this historic time.

Take Care! Stay Healthy! SHO-SHIN!

Scott Privratsky, Superintendent
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