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School Closure--COVID-19

1 message

Scott Privratsky <scott.privratsky@dlschools.org>

Fri, Mar 20, 2020 at 11:26 AM

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

Cc: Christy Cichos <Christy.cichos@gmail.com>, Cory Meyer <corymeyer@gondtc.com>, Jason Hodous <jasonhodous@gondtc.com>, Lee Ann Johnston <johnstonla@yahoo.com>, Steve Halldorson <stonna@gondtc.com>

Bcc: Scott Privratsky <scott.privratsky@dlschools.org>

DLPS Employees,

As you know the Governor has closed schools until April 1, 2020. Time will tell what will happen when that date arrives. School employees will be meeting parents/students at the doors of the school buildings to distribute all necessary learning materials on Monday and Tuesday of next week to keep access as limited as possible.

The upcoming seven days of instruction beginning March 23, 2020 will be a "test drive" of our Distant Learning Plan which needs to be submitted to the State by Friday, March 27, 2020. It will give DLPS opportunity to make necessary adjustments and improvements.

I understand many of you are under a tremendous amount of stress, whether emotional, financial, or other. I hope this communication can assist with reducing some of your stressors.

1. You will be paid your regular wages and keep your benefits while we are still guaranteed state funding. Classified employees may be asked to perform varying or different tasks at times. We ask that you be flexible and do your part to help us get through this difficult time.
2. We have altered our meals provided during this closure (since initial communication) to Drive-By-Pickup at Central Middle School and Home Delivery to limit access into the schools.
3. Once all students have been provided their packets or other necessary learning materials on Monday and Tuesday of next week, staff will be allowed to work from home if they are able to complete their job responsibilities in that manner during the time we are providing distance learning opportunities.
4. Building Administrators will identify essential staff to be in the schools and will ensure the office is staffed from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Thursday next week and Monday through Friday for any weeks to follow. These essential staff may change from day to day but please keep in mind what was stated in 1. above.

The district is placing a tremendous amount of trust and flexibility in staff as we move through this unprecedented time. I understand some staff are wondering why they had to be working when others employed by other school districts maybe didn't have to be in their buildings. I thought it was best for all employees to be working simultaneously to provide remote learning opportunities especially considering the demographics of the students we serve. I also feel a tremendous amount of responsibility to our taxpayers as shared by Governor Burgum. Be aware there was no intent to "take advantage" of employees which is demonstrated in the Master Contract agreement or Employee Handbooks, I did what I thought was best for our district and made that decision and will move forward. We will be working with essential staff as we make this transition to provide distance learning opportunities for all of our students. The expectations placed on us, as school leaders, has been changing on a daily basis. Your support is greatly appreciated.

I feel good about the work that has been completed and preparation that has been done by our great employees as we unveil this work next week. You all deserve a huge pat on the back and thank you for your efforts. The Devils Lake Public Schools are the leaders in this community and that is because of you!

VERY PROUD TO BE YOUR SUPERINTENDENT,

Scott Privratsky, Superintendent
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