

**WILLOW SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT 108**  
**8345 Archer Avenue**  
**Willow Springs, IL 60480**

**Frank C. Patrick, Superintendent**  
**Lori Smuda, Principal**

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**[www.willowsschool.org](http://www.willowsschool.org)**

April 17, 2020

Dear Willow Families:

This afternoon Governor Pritzker suspended on site learning for all Illinois schools for the remainder of this school year. Remote Learning will continue through the end of the school year.

While we've been anticipating this over the past week, it's certainly not anything any of us want. We all know that in-person instruction is the best for learning to happen. But, we need to keep kids and our community healthy and safe from the COVID19 virus. Health safety is always more important.

We at school know how hard our families are working to help their kids with their school work. This is not something you signed up to do. We truly appreciate all the extra effort our families have given over the past month. We will continue to provide Remote Learning Lessons and know that we are here to support your kids and you through this extraordinary time.

We've already been working on developing alternative plans for 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation. We're firming up details, but we're looking at mid to late summer dates for Graduation when hopefully we can celebrate our graduates in person as well as exploring ways to hold a virtual graduation that honors our students should we not be able to meet in person. More information will be shared in the upcoming weeks with our 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their families.

Over the years, we've also celebrated our kindergartners Stepping Up from Kindergarten into First Grade. We're finalizing plans on honoring their successes and will be sharing those with our kindergarten families in the coming week or two as well.

We'll also be making minor adjustments to our school calendar to accommodate Remote Learning. Our last day of school will continue to be Thursday, May 21, 2020. We're working out a plan for school materials and ChromeBooks that are at home be returned to school and for us to return personal materials that your children left at school on March 13 – our last day of on-site instruction. Those details will be shared in the coming weeks as well.

This has already been a long and horrible road that we've been on fighting COVID19. And we need to walk longer down this road. I'm grateful for our students and their families. You bring many gifts to us. We're pleased to be a part of your lives and a support and resource for you during these trying days. We are walking together down the road, and together we will get to the end.

Sincerely yours,

Frank C. Patrick