



# McIntosh County Schools

Dr. James G. Pulos  
Superintendent

March 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians;

The intent of this communication is to inform all of our stakeholders about the current status of how our school system is handling the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak that is spreading all over the world. Governor Brian Kemp held a news conference yesterday and provided flexibility to school systems to make a local decision regarding school closure. The McIntosh County School Board met at a special called meeting last night to discuss the situation and to hear recommendations from me and the staff regarding how to proceed.

The school board agreed to the following:

- We will **not** close our schools at this time.
- All athletic competitions are suspended until further notice.
- Athletes will be allowed to practice locally, but without crowds.
- All field trips are cancelled until further notice.
- We will delay enrollment of new students for a period of two weeks from the date they arrive in our district and are cleared by the school nurse.
- We will limit outside access into our schools from visitors to essential individuals only.
- We will continue to stress the importance of proper hygiene practices at home and school, and will stress the importance of social distancing (no handshaking, stand 6 feet apart, don't share items that could be contaminated like cellphones, etc.).
- We will continue to keep our schools and buses clean daily.
- Students and employees who are sick should remain home until well (appropriate documentation may be required).

The circumstances that we currently face in this community could go in a far different direction quickly as it has in other parts of the state, so we will re-address issues and actions as information unfolds. We highly recommend that parents/guardians take the time now to prepare for a potential closure of our schools. This preparation should include daycare and nutritional needs at a minimum. Furthermore, we ask parents to review their spring break plans that may involve travel outside of McIntosh County in order to minimize potential contamination upon return to school thereafter.

Households with individuals who are considered most vulnerable to this disease (our elderly, those who currently suffer from illnesses, immune system compromised individuals, etc.) should consider measures for how to minimize exposure from outside sources. Please notify your school should the need arise for special consideration of attendance requirements.

The school system is in the process of preparing instructional material for students to do at home should we close in the future. As well, we are reviewing options for the possibility of providing breakfast and lunch meals throughout our community for our students if we should close. This will be extremely challenging for numerous reasons, but we are developing options. Our cleaning contractor will continue to take extra measures each day to keep our schools clean.

There were many factors that went into these decisions that included our concerns with being able to feed students, daycare availability, and the potential financial burdens placed upon parents in order to take care of their children if schools close. Based on information from the Department of Health, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our area, there are no presumptive cases in our area, and there is currently no evidence to indicate community transmission of it in our area. In other words, there is presently no scientific evidence to support closing schools at this time.

We will do our best to keep you informed via our district and school Facebook pages, websites, flyers, and by other means that may come available.

As always, please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jim Pulos  
Superintendent of Schools  
McIntosh County