

Friday, April 17, 2020

The Greene County Tech School District School is pleased to announce that we have signed a contract with Herff – Jones to produce a virtual graduation for the GCT Class of 2020. This virtual graduation will be on Friday, June 5 at 7:00 PM. GCT plans to honor the senior class with this production for their graduation. We are excited that we will have seniors' memories archived and produced in a professional manner for students to share with friends and family to be live-streamed and saved for years to come. While a virtual graduation is never a first choice under normal circumstances, we feel that this option is the best at this time. Seniors will be contacted in the near future with directions on how the collection of information will take place. Please know that when the state/national guidelines on COVID-19 are lifted regarding large gatherings, as specified by authorities, we will have an on-campus senior celebration for the class of 2020 and their families.

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Wednesday, April 8, 2020

### **AAA Extends “Covid-19 Dead Period” For Schools**

Due to the continued spreading of the COVID-19, and after the announcement of the closure of Arkansas schools through the end of the school year, the AAA will extend the “Covid-19 Dead Period” for all AAA member schools through May 30, 2020.

During this time, coaches shall be prohibited from engaging in any type of face to face contact whether it be practicing, training, weight lifting, tryouts, competition or travel. Further, school athletic facilities will be closed during this period. The AAA will work with the Department of Health, Department of Education, and the Governor's office later in May to announce plans following May 30.

We continue to encourage coaches to use technology to keep up with their students during this tough time.

Monday, April 6, 2020

Earlier today, Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson announced that due to the continued impact of the Covid-19 virus upon our country, our state, and our local communities, and in order to remain in compliance with recommendations from the Office of the President of the United States and national health organizations, public school districts in Arkansas will remain closed for on campus instruction for the remainder of the school year.

Local school districts will now begin sharing plans with their teachers, parents, and students on how to complete any unfinished business for the school year effectively, efficiently, and as soon as possible. As Superintendents of the local school districts, we understand the importance of these tasks, but we also understand the sensitive nature of ending the year in such a unique manner, and under such downhearted and challenging conditions. We recognize the unprecedented circumstances that we are all facing in education and are working diligently to make decisions that are both thoughtful and respectful. However, at all times these decisions must ensure the integrity of our learning environments and the health of our school patrons.

As such, we have come to a joint decision that as of today, traditional graduation ceremonies for all public schools in Greene County for the Class of 2020 are cancelled; however, we wish to honor all of our graduates and plan to do so in the future. The dates and specific plans by each school will be announced once finalized.

We do not make this decision lightly or without the deepest consideration for our seniors and their families. We know the commitment and achievement that high school graduation symbolizes and do not wish to lessen the significance of this milestone due to the lack of a traditional ceremony. Even though we may not be able to ceremoniously say “good-bye” as we have before, this in no way minimizes the pride and confidence we have in our graduating seniors...they are more than ready to go out and be the change in our world!

Again, we are planning to honor our graduates and as we develop those plans, we will be contacting you in the near future.

Greene County Tech School District - Gene Weeks, Superintendent  
Marmaduke School District - Keith Richey, Superintendent  
Paragould School District - Debbie Smith, Superintendent

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Tuesday, March 31, 2020

GCT Playgrounds and football fields are closed to the public as the district does not currently have the resources to properly sanitize for community use. Thank you for understanding. AMI Packets do NOT have to be printed. You may access them digitally on the district's website and put answers on paper with the date, AMI day number, and student's name. A district plan for turning in AMIs will be developed prior to students returning to school. Stay tune for details.

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Friday, March 20, 2020

AMI Packets 1-5 were approved by [state](#) for AMI Days Week 1, March 16-20 (Days 1-5).

All 5 AMI Packets have to be completed for the first week (March 16-20) per [state](#).

The district will be preparing additional AMI Packets for

AMI Week 2, March 30-April 3 (AMI Days 6-10) by the end of Spring Break.

AMI Week 3, April 6-April 10, (AMI Days 11-15), will load later as well as

AMI Week 4, April 13-17, (AMI Days 16-20)

We have a plan for AMI Days to be on line, and additional AMI Pick up options will be outlined after Spring Break.

Thank you for your understanding as we work through this process as it constantly changes.

Check District Web page for additional information.

Please have a safe Spring Break

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Thursday, March 19, 2020

The Governor has extended school closings until Monday, April 20. Our plan is to do AMI packets 4 and 5 for the week after spring break. I will be meeting with the administration and they will be reaching out to their staff to come up with a plan for weeks 3 and 4. These plans will be kid, teacher and parent friendly. When I get more information from the Department of Education will pass it on.

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Monday, March 16, 2020



## **AAA implements "Dead Period" for Schools**

Due to growing concerns over COVID-19, and after the announcement from the Governor and the Arkansas Department of Education, the AAA will implement a dead period for all member schools starting Tuesday, March 17, 2020. During this time, coaches (licensed teacher coaches and registered volunteers) shall be prohibited from engaging in any type of activity involving student athletes whether it be practice, training, weight lifting, tryouts, competition, or travel. Further, school athletic facilities will be closed during this period. On Monday, March 30, the AAA will reassess the COVID-19 situation and announce further plans.

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Sunday, March 15, 2020

All athletic practices, try-outs, and facilities are closed to all school and non-school groups, until further notice. We will re-evaluate by March 30. Thank you.

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Sunday, March 15, 2020

The Greene County Tech School District  
Department of Child Nutrition Will Host  
"AMI FEEDING 2020"

FREE!!! To all students 18 years of age or younger  
Meals will be served at GCT Primary school-1300 South Rockingchair Road  
Open daily from March 16th-March 20th  
Curbside pickup at the back of the primary (Bus line)  
Breakfast 8-8:30

Lunch 11-12

Meals will be served at the Elementary School 5203 West Kingshighway

Open Daily March 16th-March 20th

Curbside pickup at the back of the elementary (PM Car line)

Breakfast 8-8:30

Lunch 11-12

**COME JOIN US TO EAT FREE MEALS!!!**

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For more information contact GCT Child Nutrition Office at 870-215-4417

Sunday, March 15, 2020

GCT will be closed March 16, until March 30 for students. Students should complete AMI Packets 1, 2, & 3 for the week. Call building offices tomorrow 8-3 if you have additional questions and check the district website for additional information including meal options for students 18 and younger if needed.

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Friday, March 13, 2020



## AAA Suspends All Spring Sports & Activities

**Due to growing concerns over COVID-19 virus, the AAA will suspend all spring interscholastic competition starting Sunday, March 15, 2020 until Monday, March 30 2020. On Monday, March 30th the AAA will reassess the COVID-19 situation, and announce further plans.**

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**Thursday, March 12, 2020**

Faculty, Staff and GCT Family

*As a result of the growing concerns and risks related to the COVID-19 (coronavirus), the Greene County Tech School District would like to communicate the latest information on the virus. Currently, we are dealing with a very fluid situation and we are in constant communication with state leaders. **At present, any school closure decisions must be made in consultation with the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) and not solely by our district.** As of today, the only schools closed are in the counties of Jefferson, Grant, Pulaski, and Saline where there are presumed cases of COVID-19. We have no known or suspected cases. We will notify you immediately if we receive any updated information regarding additional closures.*

**For the health and safety of our entire GCT family, we ask you notify the Superintendent's office immediately if you have been exposed to anyone who has been in an area with confirmed COVID-19 (coronavirus) cases. You may be asked to stay home to self-monitor and avoid contact with others for up to 14 days after travel. This decision would be based on the latest information from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control).**

- **School Related Travel:** Beginning immediately, we will be cancelling all out of state travel, and in-state overnight travel until further notice. All other in-state travel could be severely limited and must be approved by the superintendent's office.
- **Personal Travel:** If you are travelling over spring break, we ask the following: please notify the superintendents' office if traveling to areas with confirmed cases of COVID-19 or taking a cruise. Upon return, we ask that you be screened by a medical professional or complete the online screener listed below. You might possibly be asked to wear a mask and take other safety precautions depending upon the recommendations at the time.
- **Athletics/Extracurricular Events:** At this time, all extracurricular events will remain as scheduled, however, this could change based on decisions by the Arkansas Department of Education. All out of state trips have been cancelled. Since there is a greater risk for the spread of COVID-19 at indoor gatherings as

opposed to outdoor activities, we are hopeful there will be no cancellations of spring sports. Cancellation of indoor events will be determined as information continues to be updated. Please monitor our website, Tech TV and Building Facebook Pages for updates.

- **Education at Home:** In the event, we are advised to close schools, we would begin using AMI (alternative methods of instruction) days. Your principals should have already given you our updated plan.

**If you think you have symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) you should have a screening. You should avoid local emergency rooms and local health clinics. The alternative is to contact: Arkansas Department of Health (800) 803-7847, UAMS (University of Arkansas of Medical Sciences) Free Online Screening at [www.uamshealth.com](http://www.uamshealth.com), Arkansas Children's Hospital (800) 743-3616.**

**Please note that all information updates will first be posted in the following manner:** School Website, Tech TV and Building Facebook Pages. All social media alerts will also be dated and posted to our website so you can easily be updated with the latest information coming in from our district regarding this fluid situation.

Sincerely,

Gene Weeks, Superintendent  
Greene County Tech School District

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**Thursday, March 12, 2020**

Everyone

After meeting with Northeast Arkansas superintendents and talking to medical experts, the District Administration has decided to not send students on out of state trips until further notice, or during spring break, for the safety of all our students here at Greene County Tech.

Thanks  
Gene Weeks