



CHESTER AREA SCHOOL

Home of the Flyers

COOPERATIVELY PREPARING ALL STUDENTS TO SUCCEED AS LIFE-LONG LEARNERS IN AN EVER CHANGING WORLD

At this time, educating, communicating, and reinforcing the importance of preventative measures is the most critical action step within our response plan.

April 6th, 2020

Dear Chester Area School Families,

This afternoon, the governor announced school building closure to continue through the end of the 2019-20 school year due to COVID-19 in South Dakota. Our school district will continue with our online learning plan for all students. The last day of school will be Thursday, May 21, 2020.

All spring activities are canceled. Further information will be shared in the coming weeks regarding how we will be honoring our graduating senior class.

Information regarding locker/desk clean out and other miscellaneous items will be coming at a later time.

Thank you for your support, understanding, and most importantly..... your perseverance through this crisis.

Heath Larson
Superintendent

April 2nd, 2020

Dear Chester Area School Families,

Thank you for your continued efforts and support during this cycle with COVID-19. We know our building closure runs through May 1. At this point, we do not know if that will extend further or not. With the announcement yesterday from the governor that peaks in COVID-19 will likely not occur in our state until July or August, we need to be prepared that everything through the remainder of this school year and the summer will not be normal.

We will continue with our online educational plan for students. Our faculty continues to work diligently to provide all of our students with a continuity of learning. We know that additional stressors can occur given the cycle we are in. We will strive to reduce the burden as much as possible.

Your child's learning will continue to be supported and assessed. Our teachers are providing learning targets aligned to state-standards, providing feedback, and are taking grades along with closely monitoring engagement/participation. We appreciate all of your assistance helping and encouraging your child.

Meals and daily delivery will continue to take place for April 6-9. We will not be providing meals for Good Friday, April 10 or Easter Monday, April 13 which were scheduled as no school days in our calendar. If you have signed up for meal service previously, you do not need to do so again as you are on the list. To be added, please complete the survey below by 7:00PM on Friday, April 3.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/37KNFYL>

In an effort to enhance our social distancing practices, we will not have a material distribution school-wide on April 5 or April 12. Any materials needing to be acquired or sent will be done electronically or via postal mail.

As we all continue to adjust to the online educational model for teaching and learning, please know we are here to be a support for you and your child.

Heath Larson
Superintendent

March 24th, 2020

Dear Chester Area School Families,

- First off, THANK YOU to everyone for the hard work, flexibility, and support during these times of uncertainty and challenge with COVID-19.
- Chester Area School buildings will continue to be closed through Friday, May 1. We hope to reopen the school buildings for our typical schedule on Monday, May 4. The building closure was announced by the governor earlier today for South Dakota schools.
- All school activities are postponed/suspended or canceled during this time of building closure. Specific information will be coming soon.
- All previous mandates remain in place.
- We will continue with our educational plan that is established. I want to remind parents to please reinforce the importance to your child in grades 4-12 that they need to check their email frequently and daily. Staying up to date and completing assignments by the due date is also important for all students. Our educational plan counts as regular school days and will not be made up.
- Pre-K – Grade 5 Parent/Guardian: We will have drive-up service on Sunday, March 29, from 3:00-5:00 PM at the elementary school parking lot curb. Our goal is a positive flow of traffic and efficient use of everyone's time. Stay in your vehicle if driving and we will come to you; anyone walking to the school, we will come outside to deliver to you. One healthy, parent/guardian should bring the week's learning packet to turn in. We will give you the learning packet for the upcoming week. This format will be an added step for social distancing.
- Free, sack meals for breakfast and lunch will continue to be delivered daily next week for any PreK-12 enrolled, onsite students in our school. Please note: If you have signed up already for meal delivery, you do not need to do so again. If you haven't signed up at this point and would like meal delivery, please complete the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PVHFWFF>

- Please continue to practice the good hygiene measures and social distancing that we are all reminded of frequently.

Heath Larson
Superintendent

March 18, 2020

Dear Chester Area School Families,

Chester Area School buildings will be closed March 23-27 in response to COVID-19. The governor made the announcement yesterday. All activities scheduled during this closure will not occur this week. All previous mandates stay in effect.

- Our district teachers and faculty have been planning, preparing, and responding to provide students paper/pencil student work packets and/or online throughout the duration of any closure.
- Much of this is new for everyone involved. We have planned, prepared, and are responding to providing our students a continuity of learning. Do know this will not be perfect. We will all learn daily, reflect, and move forward in a positive manner.
- All students will be given daily, meaningful coursework aligned to the state standards.
- Teachers will be utilizing multiple methods of communication such as email, phone calls, and online learning platforms.
- Teachers will be working daily 8:00-4:00 during this week of closure. Please be patient as we completed a redesign in delivery.
- On Sunday, March 22, between 3:00-5:00PM at the Chester Elementary School entrance, please do the following:
 - A Parent/Guardian, who is not sick, of Pre-K, Kindergartener, K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 5th Grade: Bring in work packets from Monday and Tuesday that were sent home last week and pick up new packets/materials. Parent/Guardian of 4th Grade students do not need to come in.
 - A specific Parent/Guardian and those students in Grades 6-12 will be contacted if we need you to come in between 3:00-5:00 PM.
 - IF you are unable to get here on Sunday, March 22 between 3:00-5:00, we will reopen at 7:00AM on Monday, March 23.
 - All students in Grades 1-12 will have a school issued device during closure.
 - March 23-27 will be counted as regular instructional days and not be made up.
 - During the length of closure, please be aware of the following web site to address multiple topics from our school counselor which can be accessed at <https://chesterschoolcounseling.weebly.com/>
 - Continue to practice good hygiene recommendations and social distancing.

Free, sack breakfast and lunches will be available upon pre-order and delivered daily from March 23-27 to any PreK-12 enrolled, on-site students in our school. These meals will be delivered each morning between 8:30-10:00 and each student will receive both a breakfast and lunch for the day. Please click on the link below and complete the following survey to pre-order for meals each day. Pre-orders are due by: Friday, March 20 at 7:00PM.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PVHFWFF>

Thank you-

March 14, 2020

Dear Chester Area School Families,

The Chester Area School District will be offering and delivering a free, sack breakfast and lunch to any Pre-K - Grade 12 onsite, enrolled students on Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17, due to COVID-19. Spring Break was previously scheduled for March 18-20.

A parent/guardian must sign up/pre-order for this service for the week no later than 7:00 PM on Sunday, March 15.

Delivery will take place between the approximate times of 8:30-10:00 AM and will receive a free, sack breakfast and lunch for that day.

To order, contact me at heath.larson@k12.sd.us or text/call my cell # (605) 222-6043 no later than Sunday, March 15, 7:00PM.

We need the following information to complete the order:

First & Last name of each student, Grade, Address for Delivery, Parent/Guardian Phone #, and the day/s you want meal delivery (each student will receive a free sack breakfast and lunch at delivery time)

Thank you to our food service program, volunteers, and donations that have helped make this a possibility.

March 13th, 2020

Good Afternoon Chester Area School Families,

Based on the recommendation of school closure for the week of March 16-20 by Governor Noem, the Chester Area School District is closing school and all related activities for Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17. We have Spring Break from Wednesday, March 18-20 and scheduled to return on Monday, March 23. All related activities are canceled over the duration of tomorrow, March 14 through Sunday, March 22.

Students will be bringing home their curriculum materials and work packets today for the two days of closure. The work packets will also include the following week of coursework if additional closure is potentially announced. These steps will allow for this time out of school to count within our academic calendar.

I will be coordinating a plan to provide sack lunches through our food service program to families requesting that for our enrolled, onsite K-12 students. Currently, this plan will cover Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17. It will not cover our already scheduled Spring Break days or the weekend/s. Regular fees will apply. More information will be sent soon regarding specifics for this.

We will be taking additional cleaning measures during this time.

It's been a crazy time and we appreciate your support as we navigate COVID-19. As always, if you have questions please let me know. Remember to continue practicing good hygiene as recommended from CDC and SD Department of Health.

March 12, 2020

Dear Chester Area School Families,

We continue to closely monitor and navigate the COVID-19 situation. After considerable thought and conversations with local and state officials, the Chester Area School District will be implementing the following actions immediately which will remain in place until further notice:

- All prior communication of action steps taken remain in place
- Suspension of non-essential travel for staff and students
- Suspension of facility use by outside organizations
- Suspension of all outside visitors and volunteers
- The following upcoming activities/events scheduled between tomorrow and next week are canceled: (Career Day, Drama Banquet, and an FFA event)
- Extra-curricular practices involving our students and staff are allowed to take place (They are already here all day together)
- Spring Break is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18 with a return to school on Monday, March 23

Please continue to practice good hygiene. If your child is sick, please keep them at home. We have not had any confirmed cases of COVID-19 of students or staff in our school.

I have once again attached information below from the CDC and SD Department of Health as a resource for everyone.

CDC Resource: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

SD Dept of Health: <https://doh.sd.gov/news/Coronavirus.aspx>

We will get through this together.

RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: March 11, 2020

Dear Chester Area School Families,

On March 2, 2020, I disseminated information to our parents and staff regarding the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. We are continuing to monitor this situation and will provide you with updated information that our school will be taking with guidance and resources from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) along with local/state public health agencies.

A few reminders for everyone that are preventative measures to help reduce the spread of respiratory illness:

- Stay home when you are sick (The CDC recommends that individuals with flu-like illness stay home until at least 24 hours after the fever ends.)
- Frequent hand washing with soap and water for 20 seconds
- Use of alcohol based hand sanitizer (60% or greater)
- Avoid touching all parts your face

Chester Area School will be taking the following steps immediately:

- All school attendance incentives PreK-12 will be eliminated starting today until further notice (Perfect Attendance awards, Semester Test exemption)

- Continue providing resources on our school website
- Increased hand sanitizer availability
- Enhanced cleaning with hospital grade products
- Increased display of handwashing posters

The intent of our plan is to reduce the spread of the virus as we continue all regular functions of our educational day and programs. Please contact the school if your child will be gone from school and specify the reason. As always, if you have questions please contact me.

CDC Resource: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

SD Department of Health Resource: <https://doh.sd.gov/news/Coronavirus.aspx>

March 2, 2020

As a school district, we are monitoring the ongoing information regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak overseas and in the United States. There are no confirmed or pending cases at this time in South Dakota.

Please note that preventative actions for this virus aligns with the prevention measures for Influenza. Two data sources of information from the CDC are included in this correspondence.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/children-faq.html>