



Cusick School District Mandatory School Closure

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

1. Why is the Cusick School District closing? On Friday, March 13th, Governor Jay Inslee issued a State of Emergency, imposing a mandatory closure of all K-12 schools in the State of Washington effective Tuesday, March 17th. Information from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Schools (OSPI) identified this as a dynamic, fast-moving situation, and counties impacted by COVID-19 now represent 75% of Washington's population. Public health experts agree that this is the best time to do a statewide closure of schools, and going county-by-county would not allow Washington to get ahead of the wave of cases. The Cusick School District determined that it did not make sense to require our students to come to school for one day, only to implement a mandated closure the next day, through April 24, 2020. If we are under a State of Emergency because of the potential risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19 (Coronavirus), it should be effective immediately. Therefore, we have determined Cusick School District will begin the mandated closure effective Monday, March 16th.

2. Will Cusick School District provide childcare? Based on the ever-expanding State of Emergency issued by Governor Inslee, along with the rapidly evolving circumstances associated with the potential risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19 (Coronavirus), it only makes sense for the Cusick School District to exercise an abundance of caution regarding the health, safety and well-being of our students, staff and community. Therefore, we will not be offering childcare services at this time. In the event some of the restrictions are lifted during this mandatory school closure, we will revisit this topic.

3. Will meals be provided for students during the closure? Yes. In conjunction with our normal school operations under the 4-day school week, we will provide a simultaneous sack breakfast and lunch 4-days per week, Monday through Thursday. We will roll the meal distribution program out in two phases. **Phase One:** On March 18th and 19th we will offer “Grab and Go” style meals to families. Cusick School District families can come to the school between 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. and be provided curbside service meals for each of their children.

Phase Two: Beginning on Monday March 23rd, district staff will prepare and deliver lunches to Cusick School District families. We will use our bus drivers and other staff to drop meals off at bus stop for families who have indicated they would like meals provided. **Please Note:** Drivers will depart the school at 7:45 a.m. to distribute the meals. An approximate delivery time will be pre-arranged with families. Somebody must be at the stop to collect the meal. This is a brand new concept/process, so please be patient.

Please Note: Families living in town will follow the “Grab and Go” format. Meals will be available for pickup at the school between 8:00-9:00 a.m. throughout this mandatory closure.

***If you have not been contacted by the school district regarding meals and you would like to get signed up for them, please call our office at 445-1125 during regular business hours.**

****Please note that meals will not be provided during the Week of April 6th-9th, as this is our regularly scheduled Spring Break.**

4. Will students be learning from home during the closure? We have been instructed by OSPI **NOT** to provide mandatory online learning, unless we can provide such services equitably. We are UNABLE to do so at this time. Therefore, we are working as a staff to provide “**OPTIONAL**” learning resources. Some of these resources may be offered digitally, while others will be offered in printed form for our students and families. Please be advised that these resources are only **RECOMMENDED** and **NOT REQUIRED** activities to help our students continue to learn and build their skills during this mandated closure. Completed activities will not be graded and should not be returned to the school. It is our plan to begin offering these learning resources on Monday, March 23rd. This will afford our dedicated staff the necessary time to work through the details, organize their ideas, and put the resources out for use. Learning resources will be distributed using the same process as meals. ***If you have not been contacted by the school**

district regarding educational resources and you would like to get signed up for them, please call our office at 445-1125 during regular business hours.

5. Will students have to make up the days missed? Under our 2019-2020 school calendar, the last day of school for students is scheduled for Thursday, June 11th. However, this mandatory closure will necessitate the need to extend our school year due. By all current indications, OSPI will grant districts an emergency waiver specifying that schools will not have to extend their year beyond Friday, June 19th. **Please note: This date may be subject to change.**

6. What about state testing? As of March 13th, state assessments have been cancelled statewide for the remainder of the 2020 school year. These include: Smarter Balanced assessments (English Language Arts and Math) for grades 3-8 and 10; Washington Access to Instruction and Measurement (WA-AIM) English Language Arts and Math for grades 3-8 and 10; English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA21); Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science for grades 5, 8, and 11; Washington Access to Instruction and Measurement (WA-AIM) Science for grades 5, 8, and 11; WIDA Alternate ACCESS for English learners; and WaKIDS for Transitional Kindergarten.

7. What about graduation requirements? We are still not sure how graduation requirements will be handled. We are currently awaiting guidance from OSPI. We anticipate flexibility and emergency waivers of some type.

8. Will we have parent-teacher conferences? All K-12 parent- teacher conferences have been cancelled in the Cusick School District.

9. What will staff members be doing during the closure? We are still working to solidify this. These are unprecedented times and we suspect any plans that are made must have the flexibility of “**immediate change**” embedded within them. However, in a nutshell, our dedicated and professional staff will still be working, albeit in creative, non-traditional, and flexible ways, which will allow them to continue to receive compensation.

10. How might our community help? Currently, there are more questions than answers, so we ask you to please remain patient as we navigate these uncharted waters. Part of our process is to work collaboratively with our Community Partners to help determine how to best meet the needs of our

students, staff and community. Thank you for your willingness to remain steadfast in the face of adversity. Together, we shall persevere through this difficult situation.

If you have any ideas or would like to help in some capacity please email Superintendent Don Hawpe or Principal Steve Bollinger.

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