

Arapahoe-Holbrook Public School

610 Walnut Street, PO Box 360 Arapahoe, Nebraska 68922 Phone: (308) 962-5458 Fax: (308) 962-7481 Website: arapahoewarriors.org

March 25, 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Patrons,

COVID-19 has changed how business is done at Arapahoe-Holbrook Public Schools and our building has been closed since March 17. Unfortunately, the current recommendation from the Commissioner of Education is that schools not have students in the building through May 1, 2020. The Commissioner has also indicated that it is "highly unlikely" that we will return to school this school year. This recommendation is also highly encouraged by the Governor and the Public Health Officials. Based on these recommendations, Arapahoe-Holbrook Public School will be closing its building through May 1. I believe that Kearney Public School said it the best. "Our buildings are closed, but the school year is not over."

Learning must continue to progress and will look different being outside of our normal brick and mortar setting. All teachers at Arapahoe-Holbrook Public Schools are currently providing enrichment and continuity of learning activities to students. Enrichment activities are a review of skills that students have already learned this year while continuity of learning is providing new materials for students to learn. Both enrichment and continuity of learning materials will be provided using multiple delivery methods from packets to online options and/or a mix of both. All students should have received materials and communication from teachers regarding assignments and due dates. Assignments will be graded and must be completed as instructed. If your child does not have access to the internet, please let us know by calling (308) 962-5458.

This situation is developing rapidly, and conditions are changing daily and at times hourly. Please be assured that school administrators and board members are closely monitoring official state guidelines from the Nebraska Department of Education, the Governor's Office, and the State Health Officials. We will continue to re-evaluate our building closure as this situation continues to evolve.

School activities through April are cancelled. Recommendations right now do not allow us to have gatherings of more than 10 people in a room at a time. We will continue to monitor this situation and look forward to a time when we can return to hosting school and activities as we normally would do.

Respectfully,

Dr. George Griffith

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department



March 24, 2020

Dear School Administrators in Franklin, Frontier, Furnas, Gosper, Harlan, Kearney, and Phelps Counties in ESU #11:

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) and Two Rivers Public Health Department have been in consultation with state and local partners regarding the expanding COVID-19 pandemic. It is our joint recommendation that public and parochial schools in the SWNPHD and TRPHD health districts do not plan on returning to school until after May 1, 2020 for the 2019-2020 school year. Although the school campuses should remain closed, and normal operations suspended, modifications that you can make to continue teaching and learning are encouraged.

In addition, we recommend the following measures:

- Faculty and staff may continue to report to work at the discretion of the school administration, however, measures must be put into place now to eliminate mingling and blending of staff members. This would include limited or no access to the staff lounge, a strict strategy for disinfecting common areas such as the restrooms, school office, meeting rooms, foyers, etc.
- Any staff or faculty members reporting to work should have a symptom screen prior to being admitted. This includes temperature and assessment of cough and/or shortness of breath. Please note, that with any respiratory virus, viral shedding can occur before a person becomes symptomatic or realizes that he/she is sick. Because of this, social distancing (six feet apart) of faculty members continuing to work is recommended for optimum impact. Any staff member that feels sick to any extent before arriving at school or begins to feel sick after already arriving at school, must immediately leave the premises. The doors should be locked to visitors.
- All staff reporting to work during the closure should be ordered to wash their hands upon arrival at school, and before leaving school.
- Meetings should take place by way of technology to limit exposure to others.
- Finally, of utmost importance, we ask for your assistance in supporting and encouraging strict social
 distancing during this time of closure. This would include encouraging students to stay home, and limit
 time with people from outside of their household. Keeping interactions to a bare minimum will help in
 disrupting the exposure period and periods of contagiousness.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in proactively assisting us in keeping our students, staff, families and communities safe. Should you have any questions, please call the respective offices.

Sincerely,

Jeremy J. Eschliman, MBA, Health Director Two Rivers Public Health Department

Franklin, Gosper, Harlan, Kearney and

Jereny J. Eschlein

Phelps Counties

888.669.7154

Myra Stoney, Health Director

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department

Frontier & Furnas Counties

308.345.4223