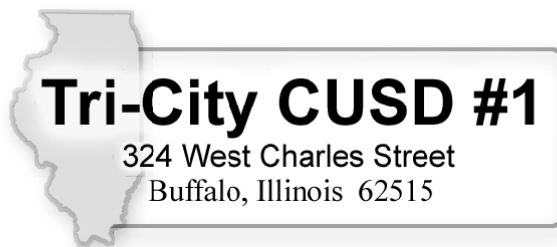




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March 20, 2020

Dear Parent(s) and Legal Guardian(s):

I want to take some time to update you. As a district, we have three priorities:

1. Feed the children. The breakfast and lunch option is open to **all** students on March 30. Since it is impossible to figure out how much to prep, please take time to e-mail TCAssistance@tricityschools.org by Sunday, March 29 at noon. We just need the number of T-C students that will need grab and go meals. On March 30, meal distribution will be from 8:30 am to 10:00 am in the front parking lot right down the main sidewalk by the flag pole. We asked that you do **not** get out of your car. We will come out to your car.
2. Communication. I will continue to update you on any executive orders by Governor JB Pritzker as I learn them. I have had several conference calls and remote meetings with the Illinois State Board of Education this week. In addition, I watch Governor Pritzker's daily press conferences and receive daily bulletins from the joint communication from Sangamon County Public Health Department along with Memorial Health System, HSHS St. John's Hospital, Springfield Clinic, and SIU School of Medicine.
3. Provide for the continuity of learning for students. This is what our staff does best! I know that we have provided students remote learning in the form of learning packets, websites, Google classroom, etc. I commend our teachers and principals for stepping up to this challenge and pushing out learning opportunities to students under pressure very quickly. Support the social media hashtag #ILSchoolsStepUp!

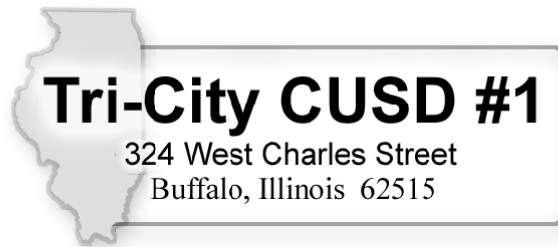
As for the building, only essential staff is present. This means administration, technology director, cafeteria manager, and custodial staff. The custodians are deep cleaning classrooms. As of yesterday, the custodial team has completed the PK – 5 classrooms. I ask that students do not come to the school for any reason. If they have a need, question, or concern they are to contact their respective principal by e-mail. Kara Cummins – kcummins@tricityschools.org or Christy Kindel – kindel@tricityschools.org.

Thank you to all of you as parents! None of us have ever had this experience before and it is tough to wrap your head around it. I appreciate all the parents who want to volunteer to help clean or serve meals to our students. We are practicing social distancing ourselves, so if we need help, we will not hesitate to ask! I know that working from home and managing school work is difficult to do. We appreciate how you value education!

Our community is incredible! I have been in contact with local churches and our local food pantry. They are brainstorming how to assist the school community. Our local food pantry is housed at the Mechanicsburg Christian Church, 305 S. Church Street. Their hours are Wednesday's from 10 am to noon.



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Please support our healthcare workers. Have your child (ren) post a red heart on 8.5"X 11" paper near the front door/windows of your houses. This is for our healthcare workers that are on our front lines to see each morning/night as they are driving by. The social media hashtag is #heartsforhealthcare.

If your child(ren) or you aren't feeling well, per the Sangamon County Department of Public Health they would like you to do the following:

If you are experiencing possible COVID – 19 symptoms, please do not go to the emergency room. First, call your primary care physician. If you don't have a physician, call the Sangamon County Department of Public Health hotline at (217) 321-2606.

My last request is that you share with your child/ren the following message from me:

First off, it is really strange being in the building in March with no students and staff. I am used to seeing students get off the busses, hearing chatter in the hallways, bells ringing, and lockers slamming. As your superintendent, I am truly sorry for the impact that COVID-19 outbreak has had on your lives. I know that many of you are missing your opportunities to see friends, see the T-C staff, go on field trips, and participate in spring sports and activities. For our seniors, this has had the most impact. I don't have all the answers to know how this will influence graduation and beyond. What I do know is that the Tri-City teachers and staff are here to help and support you through this time! The T-C staff cares deeply about each of you!

Second, please behave and give your parents a break. They are doing their best to be sure that you keep learning! Be good to your siblings too! I encourage you to read, read, read!

All of the adults in your world share in your frustrations and disappointments. It is important to maintain a positive attitude and focus your energy on what you can do to help during this time. Step up and do your part by washing your hands frequently, cough in your elbow, and practice social distancing! I have put a link on the district website on what social distancing means.

March 23 – 27 is our actual spring break. Take this time to rest, play, and connect with your family members in your household.

We will continue to provide you with any new information we receive from local, state, or federal officials regarding COVID-19, or any changes to March 31 and beyond. Please focus on taking care of your children and your family members!

Educationally yours,

Jill Larson, Superintendent