



## ***Green Mountain School District No. 103***

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### **Important Message for Families about Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

March 11, 2020

The safety of our students and staff at Green Mountain School is a top priority. As news has emerged regarding confirmed cases of coronavirus in Washington and Oregon, I want to share important information with you about this evolving situation and how it affects our school.

District staff are coordinating directly with Clark County Public Health on this matter, and the Green Mountain School District will follow the recommendations of our public health officials in keeping our staff and students safe. As of yesterday afternoon, officials are reporting only one positive test for COVID-19 in Clark County, one in Multnomah County, and none in Cowlitz County. We have no information from Clark County Public Health that would indicate a known exposure of students or staff in our school to this virus, so the concern for our school community remains low at this time.

I understand the concerns you may have about this virus, and want to assure you that we will continue to provide you with updates as the situation changes.

#### **What We Are Doing:**

- We are following directions from Clark County Public Health regarding cleaning, infection control, and monitoring of staff and students.
- We have increased our cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces at Green Mountain School. Custodians are disinfecting door handles, desks, bathroom surfaces, etc. every day. The cleaners we are using have been shown to be effective against viral agents similar to COVID-19.
- We have also increased the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces on our school buses.
- Students and staff are being reminded to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or to use the hand sanitizer that is in dispensers in every classroom, in the cafeteria, and in the gym.
- We will continue to take precautions and follow the recommendations of our health professionals, making adjustments as needed.

#### **What You Can Do:**

- Make sure that we have updated contact information so you can receive updates. If restrictions or a closure was ordered, we will make notice through School Messenger.
- Talk with your children about the importance of hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes. Please have your children wash their hands immediately before coming to school.
- Advise the school office immediately if you learn that any member of your immediate family has a known exposure to a person with the COVID-19 virus. We will work with you and health officials to determine the best course of action if there is a known exposure.

- Keep sick students at home, and notify the school of symptoms. We will ask about specific symptoms to help us track any trends.
- Students should stay home if they have a fever over 100° F, a cough or shortness of breath, are vomiting, or have diarrhea. Keep students at home until they have been **free of all symptoms for at least 24 hours**. Call your doctor if you are concerned about your student's symptoms.
- If your child has been home sick, please thoroughly clean items they bring to school.
- Make a plan for child care in the event that health officials direct schools to be closed to minimize the spread of the virus.

### **What If Schools Must Close?**

If public health officials determine that it is necessary to close schools, the District will evaluate whether we can continue to provide educational services during a closure. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction is not recommending a distance-education model for schools that must close, unless we can provide all the required services and supports to all students. Those required services include instruction, academic intervention, special education services, and school meals – which would be very challenging to provide in an equitable manner to all students. At this juncture, it does not seem probable to me that we will continue services if a closure is necessary.

Schools that close will have to make up missed days unless those days are waived by the state. We would have to add days to the end of our school year and/or use our two scheduled make-up days.

### **Need More Information?**

Rather than our district posting information on our website, I will encourage you to access the accurate and timely information posted by our partners at Clark County Public Health:

[www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/novel-coronavirus](http://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/novel-coronavirus)

As this situation continues to unfold, please talk with your children and help them understand the potential risks and how we can all work together to minimize the spread of the virus. Your calm and honest communication with students will help to minimize any anxieties they may have with what they are hearing about this pandemic. This is a learning experience for all of us, and sharing accurate information will continue to be an important part of our response plan.

If you have questions or concerns that you want to share with me, please feel free to call or email.

PAWSitively,



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Superintendent/Principal

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