

# SOUTH BROWN COUNTY

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 430

522 Central  
Horton, Kansas 66439-1714



Telephone: (785) 486-2611  
Fax: (785) 486-2496

April 9, 2020

Dear South Brown County USD 430 School Community,

Happy Easter!

Hopefully, going into our second full week of on-line learning students, parents and teachers are starting to get into a routine and feel a little more comfortable in our vision for the remainder of the year. Please contact your teacher or principals through emails if you have questions. Students should be sticking to the recommended timelines and hours worked each day on assignments. If you are finding your child is struggling please reach out to your child teacher or principal. At this time email is the best way to get a hold of staff members.

As we continue to make changes and update our Continuous Learning Plan we want to hear from you. This week we released a survey for parents, students and our teachers to complete. Please take the time prior to April 14 to complete the survey. The results will be used to help us identify areas in our Continuous Learning Plan that may need to be tweaked for our students and families.

As new information becomes available we will continue to communicate with you. Please continue to check our website, district Facebook page, and text alerts for up to date information. At this time with school buildings closed for the remainder of the year, we will not be producing a monthly newsletter but will keep everyone informed with up to date information.

We will not be in session on April 10 and April 13, however; your child can continue to work on-line if they would like. Enjoy the Easter Weekend!

Thank you for your support of USD 430 South Brown County. I am open to suggestions or ideas pertaining to the success of our students. Please feel free to give me a call or email me at [clinej@usd430.org](mailto:clinej@usd430.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason Cline".

Jason Cline  
Superintendent  
USD 430 South Brown County

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April 3, 2020

Dear South Brown County USD 430 School Community,

We have made it through our first official week of Continuous Learning! As we continue to move forward we want to hear from you. I encourage all parents and students to ask questions or seek out help if you or your child is having difficulties. We understand this is a challenging time and we are here to support you and your child in their education.

We have created a link on our district website titled Continuous Learning Plan. Please familiarize yourself with this link and the information on the page. Teachers will be adding new lessons and resources as we continue to develop and become more comfortable with the understanding of online learning. Learning will not stop, the only change is the way instruction is delivered. As our Continuous Learning Plan philosophy states, It is the relationships formed between students, faculty, and community. Our students will be provided with the tools to stay connected to classmates and teachers. Learning will be different in the fact that our students will be at home but they will experience an education not only online but also activities focusing on the real world.

If you are having difficulties let us know if you are having troubles with your devices let us know if you are spending more than the required time let us know if you are not understanding the content or what is expected let us know. We are here to support, to serve and are eager to work with parents and students in making this a positive learning experience for all.

Although our buildings are closed, the district is still preparing and planning for next year. For example, this week we have prepared two different grants to the state department to help in establishing a four-year-old preschool within USD 430. It is our goal to be awarded at least one of the grants so that we can add a preschool classroom where students would be able to be exposed to a research-based curriculum that will enhance their future education within USD 430. We will be sending out more information once we are notified of where we are with the grants.

Throughout the remainder of the school year, buildings along with the district office could have odd hours due to guidelines we are needing to follow. I have encouraged staff to work from home as much as possible. If you have questions please call, if no one answers then send an email to the person who you are trying to contact. Our directory is up to date on our district website with building phone numbers and emails of all staff members. Staff will be checking email regularly throughout the day and will be able to reply within a reasonable time span.

As always, I appreciate the support you give to our school system and the opportunity to allow us the chance to continue working with your child. If you have questions please contact your building principal or myself.

Sincerely,



Jason Cline  
Superintendent  
USD 430 South Brown County

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March 27, 2020

Dear South Brown County USD 430 School Community,

USD 430 staff has been busy this week planning and preparing for what continuous learning will look like for our students for the remainder of the year. The state has given each school district in Kansas recommendations on how to plan and move forward with continuous learning. Our staff has done a tremendous job in raising above all expectations in meeting the requirements from the state department as well as assuring that education will continue for every student in USD 430! I am super proud of the accomplishments that were made throughout the week.

Our continuous learning plan will be a combination of on-line learning or if a student would rather continue to learn through a packet that option would be available as well. To meet the need for on-line learning we have allowed families to check out Chromebooks and have relied on Rainbow Communications in leading the charge of establishing free hot spot locations around the school district for our students to use. Earlier this week we posted the hot spot locations, if you have questions or need help please let us know. To meet the needs of increase devices, USD 430 was able to reach out to our LiNK Grant for the purchase of an additional 50 Chromebooks. We also utilized SRSA funds, that are generated for the use of technology, to purchase another 50 Chromebooks.

Monday, March 30 at 1:30 the Board of Education will hold a special meeting to approve our Continuous Learning Plan. After the approval, I will be submitting a waiver packet to the state department that will explain our plan along with the number of hours that we would need to be excused for the mandatory 1,116 hours of instruction time that makes up a full school year. The waiver will address how we are planning on supporting the following: Academics, Social and Emotional, Family Community Communication, Graduation Requirements, and Professional Development.

After board approval on Monday, a tab will be added on our district website title USD 430 Continuous Learning Plan. By clicking on this tab, students and parents will be able to find lesson plans, activities, and information for each grade level and subject. This will be one of the main areas students and parents will need to visit in order to continue with education throughout the remainder of the year.

Throughout the next few weeks, buildings along with the district office could have odd hours due to guidelines we are needing to follow. I have encouraged staff to work from home as much as possible. If you have questions please call, if no one answers then send an email to the person who you are trying to contact. Our directory is up to date on our district website with building phone numbers and emails of all staff members. Staff will be checking email regularly throughout the day and will be able to reply within a reasonable time span.

As always, I appreciate the support you give to our school system and the opportunity to allow us the chance to continue working with your child. If you have questions please contact your building principal or myself.

Sincerely,

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Superintendent  
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March 20, 2020

Dear South Brown County USD 430 School Community,

As many of you know, Governor Laura Kelly on March 17, 2020, announced all school facilities would close for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. We have been working with the Kansas State Department of Education to develop a Continuous Learning Plan for all students. Currently, Kansas leads the country in developing a comprehensive plan to continue with education while buildings are closed. Kansans have been given a great opportunity to help guide and shape the future of education!

Each day this week, the administration has been involved in webinars with the state department receiving guidance on how to proceed. On Thursday morning, the administration team received *The Continuous Learning Plan* from the Kansas Task Force Team and began reviewing the document. Friday, we held a modified District Leadership Team meeting (per CDC regulations - fewer than 10 people and 6 feet apart), where we discussed moving forward.

The Kansas Department of Education will be issuing waivers for the mandatory 1,116 hours needed for a full school year. In order to receive the waiver, districts must abide by the following conditions:

1. Develop and implement a Continuous Learning Plan.
2. Pay all staff as if we were in school.

I will need to submit the official waiver application by April 8. Teachers will begin meeting, starting Monday, March 23rd throughout the week to develop the USD 430 Continuous Learning Plan.

We understand the hardship a school closure places on our families as well as the social and emotional impact it may have on our students. We will continue the Grab and Go meal program through the end of the school year. Our year will conclude on May 19, 2020.

We are committed to working together as a community to support one another throughout these unprecedented times, and communication will remain a top priority.

At this time we are aware that there are still several questions unanswered or that need to be discussed. As we move forward, with the help of the Kansas Department of Education several of these questions will be addressed.

As always, I appreciate the support you give to our school system and the opportunity to allow us the chance to continue working with your child. If you have questions please contact your building principal or myself.

Sincerely,

Jason Cline  
Superintendent  
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March 17, 2020

Dear South Brown County USD 430 School Community,

Under the executive order of Governor Laura Kelly, school as we know it will be closed. Due to these new developments, we are working on making changes for our district - staff, students, and families.

Currently, a Kansas Task Force Team is developing recommendations for schools to follow to help align the vision of the remainder of the school year. During our daily briefing with Superintendents and Principals, we were instructed that we will be receiving this information by the end of the day on Wednesday. After receiving the recommendations USD 430 will implement the following timeline to continue the education of our youth in South Brown County:

- Week of March 16-20: Continue to deep clean all buildings, collect information from the Department of Education and Kansas Department of Health and Education. All school buildings will remain closed.

- Week of March 23-27: Bring in certified staff to develop a plan based on recommendations from the Kansas Task Force Team. Buildings will remain closed to the public and non-essential staff.

- Week of March 30: Begin new plan for the remainder of the school year.

As we move through this transition period please be flexible and patient as we work out the kinks to make the education experience the best we can for all of our students. This is a fluid situation and the above timeline could change based on the information provided from the Kansas Department of Education.

We are still advised by the CDC to not have groups of 50 in one area. President Trump, stated yesterday that we should be in groups of less than 10. If this continues to be the guidelines all spring activities and events will be canceled.

I will do the best I can to keep everyone updated on the changes as we move forward. Thank you for your support and dedication to our school and community.

Sincerely,

Jason Cline  
Superintendent  
USD 430 South Brown County

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March 17, 2020

Dear South Brown County School Community,

With the current situation with school closing USD 430 would like to offer any student ages 1-18 an opportunity to receive a free lunch and breakfast. Over the last few days, we have been organizing and planning a food service program to help meet the nutritional needs of our students.

Beginning Wednesday, March 18, 2020, a non-congregate school meals program will be available to any person age 1 to 18 years of age. Students must pick up the meals from the designated location. This will be accomplished in a "drive-thru" fashion. A breakfast for the following day will also be served with lunch. Children must be present for meals to be received.

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location: Horton Elementary School (drop off/pick up line in front of the school)

When picking up meals you will be notified of which items are perishable at room temperature. These items will need to be consumed, refrigerated, or thrown away within one hour of pickup for safety purposes. In the event of additional school closures, more locations may be added.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility during this time.

Sincerely,



Jason Cline  
Superintendent  
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March 15, 2020

Dear South Brown County USD 430 School Community,

Under the recommendation of Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) and the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Randy Watson, USD 430 South Brown County will be closed the week of March 16-22. USD 430 was given this recommendation during a meeting with the Commissioner on Sunday, March 15, 2020. Dr. Randy Watson strongly suggested that all schools coming off of spring break and those schools that have spring break later in the year to be closed for the upcoming week. Throughout the week school districts will have daily briefing with the state department on the development of COVID-19.

USD 430 closure will include all activities and practices. Only essential personnel will be allowed on school grounds while the district is closed. If you have questions please call the building principals or the board office.

I would advise students and families to follow the recommendation set forth by the CDC and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. More information can be found on their websites:

[www.cdc.gov/COVID19](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

<http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus>

I appreciate your understanding and flexibility during this challenging and uneasy time for our community, the State of Kansas and our country. I assure you that USD 430 will take all recommendations by license professionals into consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason Cline  
Superintendent  
USD 430 South Brown County