

## COVID-19 Crisis Update

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Melcher-Dallas School District has committed to following the guidance of the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Governor's Office. As this situation evolves, the district will continue to follow the recommendations from health care professionals and state leaders. Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds recommended, "that all Iowa schools close for a period of four weeks to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19." The Melcher-Dallas School Board, based on the recommendation of Superintendent Scott Bridges, has taken action to close school and all school buildings through April 13, 2020. School will resume April 14, 2020 unless there are further changes.

The closure will apply to all district programs, activities and facilities. All extra and co-curricular practices, rehearsals, contests and events will be postponed or cancelled in accordance with the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union's, Iowa High School Activities Association's, Iowa High School Music Association's and Iowa High School Speech Association's decision to suspend all spring activities.

Staff and students may stop by the building between the hours of 10 AM and 2 PM on Tuesday, and 8 AM and 2 PM on Wednesday. To be clear, this is only to retrieve any necessary items needed during the extended break. Students may not come in groups, congregate, or stay more than a few minutes. They should get their belongings and leave immediately. All district facilities will be closed to the public and district employees after 2 PM on Wednesday. The closure also applies to facility usage by outside school groups. We are making plans about what services, if any, will be offered during the closure. For now, the school district's business and building offices will be open on limited hours. Please call ahead to make an appointment, if needed.

All school facilities and vehicles will be cleaned and disinfected during the break. It is important to remember that this situation is fluid and plans may change as more information becomes available. Please monitor the district website and social media sources for updates. Social distancing, school closures, event cancellations, and other similar efforts are being undertaken to limit the number of exposures and "flatten the curve" on new COVID-19 cases. The district hopes its students and families will commit to avoiding large groups, limit travel, practicing preventative hygiene measures, and self-quarantining after travel or if symptoms arise. Everyone's combined effort can limit the impact of this pandemic on our community.