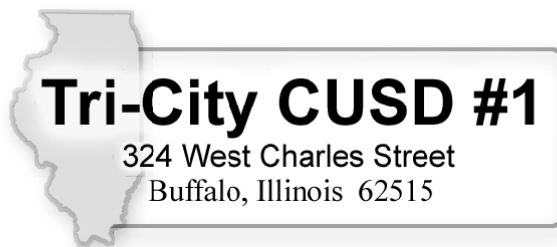




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March 21, 2020

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

On Friday, March 20, Governor Pritzker issued an **executive order requiring residents to “stay at home” effective Saturday, March 21 at 5:00 pm, through the end of April 7**. As part of the Governor’s order, he announced that school districts will remain closed, with a new **tentative reopening date of April 8**. We recognize that this development may raise questions about the impact on students, staff, and families as well as the school’s vital role of providing meals to students and families while schools are closed. We anticipate further guidance and details from the Illinois State Board of Education next week.

During this stay at home order, essential school personnel may still report to work as long as they are practicing social distancing. We want you to know the governor’s office has assured school districts that school personnel involved in providing meals will not be in violation of the governor’s executive order and that we can, and should, continue with our program, which has had a tremendous impact in making sure our students are not going hungry while school is closed. With this said as I indicated in my letter yesterday, our first priority is to feed the children. Below is the information on how to secure meals once spring break is over.

- 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](mailto: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.

As parents, we value our child(ren)’s education. As educators, we already worry about the learning loss over summer breaks so this time right now out of school just magnifies it. Per ISBE’s guidance document released last night in regards to student work being graded during the mandatory school closure, it specifically states the following:

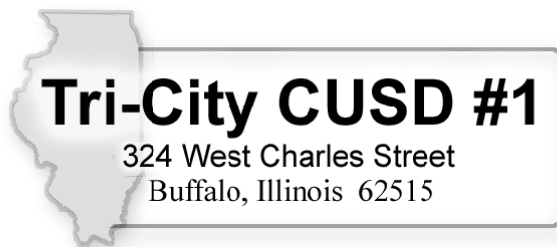
Student work completed during the mandated statewide school closure must not negatively impact a student’s grades or otherwise impact a student’s academic standing. As we do not yet know the full extent of the closure and want to minimize any negative effects on students, schools may allow student work to count during the closure only to increase a student’s academic standing.

Our students may be experiencing varying mental and physical health challenges at this time and may have very different access to supports and technology at home. Our goal is that no student is negatively impacted by the closure and that no school district’s policies or procedures should widen the equity gap.

Tri-City teachers will continue to engage students in learning once spring break is complete. I highly recommend that you continue to have your child(ren) engage in learning activities. All kids need to keep their brains working and stimulated so learning loss doesn’t occur.



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In addition, the governor has made it clear that, while he's serious about using social distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19, he wants residents to still be able to work, shop at grocery stores, put gas in their cars, take walks outside and get medication from the pharmacy. Rest assured, we are committed to doing our best to provide meals and deliver continuity of education.

Please use this opportunity to focus on staying safe and helping to slow the spread of the virus. As always, thank you for your patience and support as we all work through the COVID-19 Pandemic. As you have seen, this situation is evolving rapidly. As events unfold, I will continue to communicate.

Educationally yours,

Jill Larson, Superintendent