

APRIL 2020

BEARCAT BOARD STORY

Educating for Excellence....the Bearcat Way!



IT'S ALWAYS EXCITING TO BE A BEARCAT!

The Gasconade County R-I School Board met Thursday, April 3rd in both special and executive sessions. The regularly scheduled meeting will take place Thursday, April 9th.

During the special session, the board heard updates regarding how the Gasconade County R-I School District is handling the challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently, the school district has been closed from March 17th until April 24th. This date will be reevaluated closer to April 24th. The district is remaining in close contact with State and local officials as we navigate these circumstances and are following guidance from local health officials. Teachers are providing alternative methods of instruction through paper packets and Google Classroom. Teachers are providing a lot of instruction and educational resources to students and are available to answer questions daily. If you have a student with a paper packet, please return completed work to the wooden box at the entrance of your student's school. Additional packets are being sent home and are available on the district website.

Both State and local assessments have been canceled for the remainder of the year. Due to COVID-19, spring assessments will not be administered and an annual performance report will not be released by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education next year.

In coordination with OPAA! Food Service, the district has been able to provide about 5,000 meals to children 18 and under since March 23rd. This total includes breakfast and lunch, which is being provided to children Monday-Friday each week. If you would like to sign-up for this service, please contact Dawn Grosse at dgrosse@hermann.k12.mo.us. The following locations are available for meal pick-up: Hermann Elementary, Big Spring Fire Department, Berger Fire Department, Swiss Fire Department, and Gasconade City Park.

In an effort to provide as much help to families as possible, counseling and therapy services are being conducted through virtual methods. The district has also increased wifi access to make it available from the parking lots of each building.

The district will compensate staff as normal during this time and thanks teachers for their hard work to overcome obstacles as they tackle remote learning. Additionally, the district would like to thank the students, parents, teachers, staff, and community for their support and determination to make the best of the current circumstances.

In executive session, the board approved to hire Jake Witthaus as the head boys basketball coach for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Witthaus is a special education teacher at the Hermann High School and brings 7 years of coaching experience with him. The board also accepted the resignation of Nicole Buschmann as the middle school principal. The board wishes to extend their appreciation for Ms. Buschmann's dedication and service to our district and wishes her the best in her future endeavors.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is April 9th, at 6:00 pm at the Central Office.

Please join us for these upcoming events:

- *May 8 – 8th Grade Promotion*
- *May 14 – Graduation*

