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Gasconade County R-I School District

170 Blue Pride Drive, Hermann, MO 65041
www.hermann.k12.mo.us
Home of the Bearcats
Dr. Scott Smith, Superintendent



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April 3, 2020

Dear Bearcat family,

The Gasconade County R-1 School District commends you! It is our 13th day of school closure as a result of the coronavirus. During that time, so many have stepped up and worked together for the success of our students!

Our parents have juggled work, becoming teachers, taking care of relatives and neighbors all the while social distancing and staying caught up on virus prevention guidelines, and much more! Our teaching staff continues to work in new territory, preparing lessons and working remotely with students. Food service employees, staff members and volunteers have been amazing providing food to our students during this time. Other staff members have jumped in at a moment's notice to help where needed. Our administrators have worked tirelessly keeping up to date on local, state and national information, as well as assisting with meals, providing support to staff, parents and community needs. People are coming together in remarkable ways! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

As you know, our principals sent out messages that the first lesson packet should be completed or close to completion and new lessons are rolling out next week. For students with papers to turn in, please seal in an envelope with the student's name and place in the drop box outside your child's school, you may also drop them off when picking up meals on Monday and Tuesday of next week. We will allow papers to set for several days to ensure it is safe for handling, prior to our teachers tackling the grading.

The district is also making free wi-fi access available in the parking areas near central office, middle school and high school. Service will be better closer to the buildings. We want to make this available especially for our older students that need better internet service to complete their work. Of course, we do ask that all utilizing it adhere to social distancing guidelines. School issued computers will connect automatically. However, if you are using a personal device you will need to use the guest network and the password is bearcats. If you have any issues, you are welcome to e-mail Angela Elder, Information Technology Specialist at techsupport@hermann.k12.mo.us.

Also, our free breakfast/lunch pick-up service continues. This has been very successful and is serving over 2,400 meals each week. All safety precautions are being followed as we make and deliver meals. If you did not sign up, it is not too late. The sign-up is especially important in our outlying delivery locations. Meals and milk are free to anyone 18 or younger and are served on weekdays. At Hermann Elementary, pick up time is between 10am-12pm at the back

door. Pick-ups are available at Berger Fire Dept, Big Springs Fire Dept, Gasconade City Park and Swiss Fire Dept from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Please call 573-486-2116 ext. 1315 to be added to the list. We are happy to help your family during this time.

Counseling services are available to our students as well. Please call 573-486-2116 ext.2116 if you need to make arrangements. Also, our teaching staff and principals have been wonderful at responding to emails and providing support during this time. Please feel free to reach out to them as needed.

As you know the coronavirus situation is ever changing. There remain a lot of unknowns and we will work through all issues making decisions in the best interest of our students. Currently, the school closure remains in effect through April 24th, but this will be reevaluated as time progresses. In the meantime, please continue to follow all safety guidelines to protect your family. For the latest information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>. If I may be of any assistance or you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Again, I commend you for all you have done and continue to do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. Scott Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dr. Scott Smith