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Gasconade County R-I School District

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Home of the Bearcats

Dr. Scott Smith, Superintendent



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March 27, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Community,

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 health crisis. There is no higher priority for the Gasconade County R-1 School District than the safety of our students, staff, and community.

We have continued to be in close communication with the Gasconade County Health Department, our surrounding school districts and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Although there are no known cases in our school district, there are cases in neighboring counties which our patrons travel to on a regular basis and as we have learned COVID-19 is very contagious. Therefore, it has been decided to **extend our school closure through April 24, 2020**. Unfortunately, also during this time, all district events, competitions and after school activities are canceled.

We will continue to utilize Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) as a way of delivering educational instruction to our students. We appreciate our parents' support as we continue the process of learning from home. I commend our teachers for tackling this new way of teaching. Our teachers are working on new assignments for students. More information will be made available next week from your child's building principal. Also, our principals and teachers are available for any parent or student question. They are happy to help in any way possible. We all want to help our students succeed, even if the situation is very different from our normal. Our counselors will continue to help our students during this time too. Counseling services can be obtained by contacting Dawn Grosse at dgrosse@hermann.k12.mo.us.

I want to commend all those that have made our meal program a success this week! We have served over two thousand meals this week and will continue this process. We can provide free breakfast and lunch to all children age 18 or younger. You may add your child's name to the list at 573-486-2116 ex. 1315. We are happy to provide this service to our students. All safety precautions are being made with the preparation and distribution of these meals.

Meals may be picked up at **Hermann Elementary School on weekdays from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**, at the back door by the teachers' parking lot. District employees and volunteers will have meals available for pick up at the following **off-site locations from 10:30 to 11:30am**.

Berger Fire Department

Big Springs Fire Department
Gasconade City Park
Rhineland Fire Department
Swiss Fire Department

We recognize that extending the school closure will generate many questions, especially for families with students who are seniors. On March 19th, Commissioner of Education, Margie Vandeven shared, "There will be details that need to be worked out for graduating A+ seniors who may still need to take an assessment. We will share information and updates as soon as they become available." The Commissioner also shared that DESE is currently analyzing what additional exceptions to graduation requirements should be approved for graduating seniors, with anticipation of releasing any changes within the next couple of weeks. We ask for your patience as they work through many of these details.

I encourage all families to adhere to the preventative measures as recommended by public health officials. More information on COVID-19 can be found at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>.

Again, I thank you for your support as we work through these issues together. The students are at the forefront of my mind. If I may be of assistance, you are always welcome to contact me. Please stay healthy Bearcats!

Sincerely,



Dr. Scott Smith

Superintendent

Gasconade County R-1 School District