



EL Phone: 573-486-3197  
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## Gasconade County R-I School District

170 Blue Pride Drive, Hermann, MO 65041

[www.hermann.k12.mo.us](http://www.hermann.k12.mo.us)

*Home of the Bearcats*

Dr. Scott Smith, Superintendent



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March 16, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Community,

Thank you for the patience, understanding and care that you have expressed during the rapidly changing circumstances surrounding COVID-19. Gasconade County R-1 is committed to providing a safe learning environment. Always know that our students are our top priority and they are at the center of decisions we make, now and always.

We have been in close communications with the Gasconade County Health Department and our surrounding school districts to evaluate the situation and how it may affect our school. Although there are no known cases in our county, we reviewed the risks and have decided to close our schools, beginning **Wednesday, March 18 through Friday, April 3, 2020**. This action is being taken to minimize health and safety risks in the Gasconade County R-1 community. During this time, all district events, competitions and after school activities will be canceled.

At this time, our spring break on April 9-13 is still scheduled. We will continue to monitor this situation and I will keep you updated regarding any changes through our regular communication methods including email, messaging system and social media.

Attendance on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> allows our teachers to meet with students to share the learning plan during the closure. As mentioned in my parent letter last Friday, our custodial staff members have intensified their cleaning processes throughout the buildings and the buses. Our staff is emphasizing thorough handwashing and cough etiquette with our students. We have also changed some processes, including removing the self-service option in the cafeteria. All efforts are being made to keep the school sanitary and safe. I commend our staff for going the extra mile to do what is needed for our students.

We will utilize Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI). AMI will be in the form of packets for grades pre-school through 4th grade. Students in grades 5th through 12th will receive online assignments through the Google Classroom platform. For students without the internet, we will use paper packets. Central Office will open on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> and remain open throughout the school closure. If you need to reach someone at the district you may call 573-486-2116. In addition to educational services, our counselors will continue to help our students during this time. If needed, counseling services can be obtained by contacting Dawn Grosse at [dgrosse@hermann.k12.mo.us](mailto:dgrosse@hermann.k12.mo.us).

We also understand that some of our families rely on the availability of school meals. Breakfast and Lunch will be available for anyone 18 years of age or younger at no charge. If you have not returned the form previously sent home and would like this option for your children, please contact your school or the district office at 573-486-2116. We will begin making meals available on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Meals may be available for pick up at Hermann Elementary from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm as well as other designated locations throughout the district.

We know that closing our schools will impact all families, and we recognize that families depend on the consistency and predictability of support and services our schools offer. However, we believe this is the best course of action at this time. Please take care of yourself, your family, and those around you. I encourage you 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/2019-nCoV/index.html>.

Thank you for your support:

Sincerely,



Dr. Scott Smith  
Superintendent  
Gasconade County R-1 School District

Mark Brooks, Board President

Dot Schoening, Board Vice President

Jeff Englert, Board Secretary

Craig Schannuth, Board Director

Kevin Stiers, Board Director

Tim Schulte, Board Director

Becky Whithaus, Board Director

Maranda Anderson, Curriculum Director

Chip Stutzman, HS Principal

Nicole Buschmann, MS Principal

Kendra Brune, EL Principal

Melissa Ash, Dir. of Student Services