

Williamsville – Sherman Community Unit School District #15

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WCUSD#15 Faculty, Staff and Parents

I wanted to take this opportunity to update all of you on a number of very recent developments regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic. Please know that information surrounding this situation changes almost hourly. I receive regular updates from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and the situation is constantly evolving. I encourage you to visit the ISBE website where you'll find updates, as well as health departments - local, state and national.

Today the Sangamon and Menard County school superintendents met with regional health and educational officials regarding (COVID-19), coronavirus regarding the possible impact to the educational process, even if there are no confirmed cases in our area.

Earlier this week, superintendents received an email from Dr. Carmen Ayala, our state superintendent, stating that it is "imperative" that districts work on an alternative-learning plan in the event schools need to close for coronavirus. An alternative-learning plan would allow learning to continue mostly via technology while our students are not in school.

Alternative E-learning plans have been available to school districts for two years for weather-related school closings. Districts can implement e-learning plans and consider it a workday for teachers and the day does not have to be made up by staff or students.

We are preparing for the possibility of schools being closed by county, state, or federal authorities. If schools were to close due to circumstances related to COVID-19, we are required to exhaust our five allocated emergency days first, which we have three left. The remainder could be considered Act of God Days and would not be made up at the end of the year if approved by the regional superintendent and the State Superintendent of Education. We know that any disruption to the normal school schedule is a hardship for our parents and students.

On Friday morning, our administrative team will meet to discuss a format for an alternative-learning plan. We will also discuss the future of extra-curricular activities, school activities, student field trips, faculty workshops and conferences, and school visitors for the remainder of the school year.

PLEASE NOTE THAT AS OF THE WRITING OF THIS EMAIL, THERE IS NO PLAN TO CLOSE SCHOOL OR IMPLEMENT AN ALTERNATIVE-LEARNING PLAN.

We have been asked to be prepared and we are doing that. For our plan, we will be working alongside our teachers and staff to develop an alternative-learning plan. Out of an abundance of caution, we are preparing our plan.

We will be working on providing continued learning activities, either by e-learning or a learning packet. This learning will not be perfect and will not meet the high level of standard of education that goes on a normal basis. This is an attempt to do our best to continue to serve our students during a state and global crisis.

If the decision is made to implement an alternative-learning plan or make school programming modifications, we will require a great deal of flexibility by all involved and we will do our best to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all students. While there continue to be unknowns now and into the future, we appreciate your patience and are all hopeful for positive outcomes of these events.

As spring break approaches on April 10-17, any student or staff member traveling to a country under a level 2 or 3 travel advisory by the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>) will be subject to a 14 day quarantine before returning to school. Please communicate with your school principal if you plan on vacationing outside of the United States before the break begins.

Once again, we know the hardships that each of you encounter when school is closed. We highly encourage you to develop a plan for your children if this was to occur for an extended period of time such as 14 days.

We will continue to provide you with any new information we receive from local, state, or federal officials regarding COVID-19, or any changes made to our normal operations. We will contact staff and parents via phone, e-mail, text, social media and website postings, as well as local media notification to report any important information regarding closures or cancellations.

IT'S STILL A GREAT DAY TO BE A BULLET AND A BEE BEE!

Tip Reedy
WCUSD#15 Superintendent

