



Jefferson County School District 509J

UNITE. ENGAGE. SOAR.

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Dear Jefferson County School District 509-J families,

Governor Kate Brown announced yesterday that public schools in Oregon will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. The announcement came in response to the need to control the spread of COVID-19. We know that this news is a tremendous disappointment to students, families, and staff members. However, I believe that we all understand the seriousness of the virus to the health of our communities.

All school events, field trips, and athletic competitions scheduled through the end of the school year are canceled as well by this order. (The OSAA cancelled all Spring sports yesterday following the Governor's announcement). If your child has personal items that were left in the classroom or school, please call the school directly and the staff can arrange a time for you to retrieve the items.

While schools will remain closed through the end of the year; school staff remain committed to working with students and families to provide the best learning possible through this challenge. Teachers will continue to develop learning materials and provide access both virtually (online); as well printed versions delivered with the meal serving schedule. Nearly half of our community do not have Internet access and therefore, we will continue to ensure that the printed materials are the same quality of learning materials that are available online.

What about seniors? One of the most important announcements from Governor Brown is how the closure will affect graduating seniors this year. The Oregon Department of Education released guidance called *Graduation Pathways 2020*. Here are the important things to know:

- Seniors who were passing required coursework to graduate when school closed in March will receive passing grades for those classes toward their high school diploma. Students who have met the graduation criteria based on these guidelines will not be required to engage in the Distance Learning model. Seniors and their families will be contacted by a high school counselor or administrator to discuss their status and to be informed if they have met the requirements to receive a high school diploma.

- Seniors who need to complete additional credits to graduate will be contacted directly by school staff to discuss alternative learning options.

- While the Governor's executive order cancelled school events, including graduation ceremonies, your school leadership will work with families on ways to honor the class of 2020. Options may include a virtual event or rescheduling a ceremony at a later date. The school administration will reach out to the families of seniors on this topic.

Distance learning will continue through the end of the school year for all students except for seniors who are on the path toward graduation. This distance learning will be a continuation that has already begun and will be led by your student's teachers.

We know this is a hard time for everyone involved. However, we are a strong community and we will become closer and mindful through this experience. Thank you for your patience, understanding, grace, and leadership within your family and community.

Be well,

Ken Parshall
Superintendent