



FANNIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Michael Gwatney

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March 13, 2020

Dear FCSS Community:

The purpose of this letter is to keep you informed and provide information regarding the current situation with COVID-19. The district leadership team met this morning to discuss plans for next week. Below is what needs to be shared with the school system at this time. Your help sharing this information is appreciated.

Students:

You will not attend school next week (March 16-20). **A Curriculum Online Learning Day (COLD) is not planned for Monday, March 16.** Your school will let you and your family know when to begin COLD and what lessons you should be doing. This will be communicated through automated phone calls, social media, the school website, etc. Make sure you take everything you need that is at school home with you today. You will not be able to get into the school next week; please don't forget your personal items at school! For the high school, the SAT is still planned to go on as scheduled tomorrow (Saturday), March 14, but all other after school activities for the week of March 16 are cancelled; this also applies to all clubs and sports.

Faculty and Staff:

Monday, March 16, will be a faculty and staff work day on campus. All employees should report to work unless you are sick, which is our normal practice. Monday's work hours will be from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Please use Monday to prepare for Curriculum Online Learning Days (COLD) next week and potentially for days beyond that. Ten (10) additional COLD lessons need to be prepared in addition to the three (3) days that are already prepared (have a total of 13 ready). At this time, we have no way of knowing how long the school closing will last; we must be prepared in the event that the cancellation is extended. The decision about school for the week of March 23 will be made sometime during next week based on how this situation unfolds. Faculty and staff may be asked to report for work on other days in addition to this Monday, March 16; this decision will also be made on a day-by-day basis. You will be notified whether to report to work (on campus) on Tuesday, March 17, sometime on Monday, March 16.

Leaders:

Like faculty and staff, you should report to work this Monday, March 16, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Our admin meeting is cancelled; directors will follow up via email and Simbli. Likewise, if you need to meet with your faculty and staff, please do so in small groups, not large gatherings. The decision about whether leaders will work additional days beyond Monday on campus will be made soon. Please make sure that all after school activities (aside from tomorrow's SAT) are cancelled and that your stakeholders are notified. Continue to encourage social distancing, handwashing, and requiring that sick personnel do not report to work. Custodial staff and other available personnel should continue to deep clean your campus.

I am thankful for our community, especially our people – both children and adults. Along this line, we are faced with an issue that requires our community to work together. This is a fluid and rapidly evolving situation, and more changes will likely be needed as our routines change. More information will be shared as soon as possible.

Be sure to contact your child's school or my office if you have questions. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Michael Gwatney, Ed.D.
Superintendent