

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We thank you for your continued concern for the health and safety of our students and staff. Nordheim ISD has been closely monitoring updates from our local health department, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the Texas Education Agency regarding COVID-19.

Earlier this week, we made the decision to close campus through April 3rd out of precaution, and we anticipate the possibility of extending this closure if needed. This is a fluid situation unprecedented in our country with new information coming from government officials and health experts daily. By not announcing an extended closure, the district can be more flexible on a potential return date when the COVID-19 spread lessens. District officials will communicate to parents via school messenger if a longer closer is anticipated by Thursday, April 2nd.

Nordheim ISD will provide free grab-and-go breakfast and lunch meals to all NISD students beginning Monday, March 23. Grab-and-go meals will be available for curbside pickup by the cafeteria entrance from 9-10am. (adjustments to this schedule may be made as needed, so please watch for updated communications). All in district students will have meals delivered. All transfer students will need to pickup meals at the cafeteria entrance.

This program serves students of Nordheim ISD enrollment. Students must be present in order receive meals. Breakfast and lunch will be served at the same time. Access to enter the buildings will not be available.

Nordheim ISD faculty and staff discussed Thursday how to continue learning for students during the closure. We are dedicated to our mission of providing an inspiring education to ALL our students, and there are hurdles that we will need to cross during an extended shutdown. We are currently creating take home packets that will be delivered to in-district students and pickup for transfer students starting on Monday, March 23rd. Transfer students can pick up packets from the school cafeteria from 9-10am (adjustments to this schedule may be made as needed). Students will receive packets every Monday during this closure and will need to turn in previous week packet when new packet is received. We will continue to explore new options to best serve all NISD students during this never-before-seen event.

As you may have heard already, the Texas Education Association has canceled this year's STAAR Test. In alignment with the Texas Education Code, we will use local discretion on whether students should advance to the next grade. Instead of STAAR scores, we will use criteria such as:

- The recommendation of the student's teacher,
- The student's grade in each subject or course, and
- Any other necessary academic information, as determined by the district.

Most Seniors have already completed courses that have corresponding EOC assessments before their senior year. Normally, a student who has not passed up to two of his or her required STAAR EOC assessments may graduate through the individual graduation committee (IGC) process. For students who are still working to meet assessment graduation requirements as seniors in the 2019–2020 school year, required performance on academic assessments to graduate under TEC, have been waived for spring 2020. Effectively, this means that current seniors may graduate through the IGC process regardless of the number of EOC assessments they still need to pass. Regarding Graduation celebrations, we will wait until a later date to determine if they will be held as scheduled.

I would like to take a moment to praise and thank the education community in this great nation. Many educators, museums, zoos, aquariums, libraries, and more have already announced they are providing a number of free learning opportunities and activities online and on Facebook and Twitter. If you have the ability, I highly encourage you to explore some of these wonderful options these caring and dedicated people have provided for the children in our country impacted by this situation.

Please continue to monitor our website for further information and updates at www.nordheimisd.org. Thank you for your understanding. Please take care of yourselves and each other, and keep washing your hands.

Kevin Wilson, Superintendent