Update on School Closures
Governor Kemp Closes Schools for the Remainder of FY20

April 2, 2020

Stakeholders:

Governor Kemp will sign an executive order today closing all PK-12 public schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. I know as Superintendent, making this decision was not an easy decision for the Governor to make, but was a decision that was needed to keep everyone safe and to slow the spread of COVID-19. It does not go unnoticed that schools being closed brings about many struggles to our families. I know there are many parents that are blessed to have jobs to go to but must struggle to find care for their children, much less trying to play the role of a substitute teacher. There are some of our parents that must provide care not only to their own children, but to their elderly parents, again while balancing the task of ensuring their children are engaging in the school work provided by teachers and schools. There are the single parents, and even families that have been directly impacted by COVID-19 exposure. Let’s not forget, our teachers fall into the above mentioned groups as well, but they have doing their best to keep the learning going for all our students and I couldn’t be prouder of them!

This entire COVID-19 pandemic has created undue stress on every American and it is WCSD’s goal not to add to that stress level unnecessarily. I want to ensure every parent and student that we do have the well-being of every student as our priority. We will release an official plan for the remainder of the school year no later than Friday, April 17. The plan being worked on by our staff is a plan that will not penalize students past the third nine-weeks grading period. The plan will provide guidance on opportunities to improve any final grades that need to be improved or the student wishes to improve.

For seniors all across the country, this isn’t the way anyone wants to end your PK-12 experience! WCSD will be providing a graduation ceremony at some point for seniors to be recognized properly! It may be June, it may be July or later, but we will have the ceremony once the country comes out from under this COVID-19 threat. In the meantime, our team is working on putting together a virtual graduation ceremony which we will release more details once the plan is finalized.

WCSD wants everyone to step away from the computers and the learning packets during Spring Break week, April 6-10. Enjoy being with your families and try to reduce stress by not worrying about lessons during this week. Everything will work out and we must keep in mind Worth County Schools and the community of Worth County are dealing with the same issues as every other community and school district in the state and country.
I want to thank our school nutrition employees and our bus drivers that worked our meal program over the past weeks, they are real heroes for placing themselves in harm’s way to ensure our students had access to meals! Regrettably, due to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in Worth County, the risk of continuing the program has become too much and Friday, April 3 will be the last day for the meals.

I continue to encourage everyone to think outside of their own circles when considering health risks and best practices for prevention of COVID-19! Prevention is everyone’s responsibility! Please stay home!

Stay Safe!

Worth County and the RAMS will bounce back stronger than ever!! GO RAMS!!!