Worth County School District

William "Bill" Settle, Superintendent



Phone: 229-776-8600 -:- Fax: 229-776-8603

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103 Eldridge Street Sylvester, GA 31791

Update on School Closures Meal Program Halted Until Further Notice

March 30, 2020

Stakeholders:

Worth County Schools remain closed through **April 24, 2020,** or until Governor Kemp grants schools the go ahead to reopen. I want to encourage everyone to continue to follow all <u>CDC</u>, <u>state</u>, and federal guidelines to protect yourselves and others.

With the increasing number of COVID-19 cases growing in Worth County and our surrounding counties, it has been necessary for the district to suspend the feeding program that has been conducted the previous two weeks. The school district will continue to prepare meals until **Friday**, **April 3**, **2020**.

Instructional Break/Spring Break:

This pandemic has placed everyone in uncharted waters and I am extremely proud of our teachers and leaders for their efforts to keep instruction moving forward in an extremely challenging. In addition, students and parents alike have faced unprecedented challenges trying to do their best in a time that has definitely created stress and anxiety in everyone. Next week, **April 6-10**, is our regularly scheduled Spring Break. We will suspend all instruction as we normally do during Spring Break. Instruction and teacher s' availability will resume on Monday, April 13th.

Following are some FAQs and answers that hopefully helps everyone stay informed. Please continue to monitor the <u>district's website</u>, the school's websites, and the district's social media platforms for new information as it develops.

When Will Schools Reopen?

We cannot answer this question at this time. We will follow state guidance on this issue and make a decision based on the health and welfare of our students and staff. As of today, schools are scheduled to remain closed through April 24th. When and if we return to school this year, we will most likely begin with at least one teacher work day to allow teachers the opportunity to get reorganized for classes.

<u>Is Spring Break Still April 6-10?</u> Yes

What About Graduation?

We are waiting guidance from the Georgia Department of Education on what these closures mean for graduations, etc. We will make a decision once guidance is provided, hopefully in the next couple of weeks.

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What Can I Do To Help My Child's Learning During This Closure?

Encourage your students to complete the work already provided by their teachers, either packets or online. For our youngest students, the best things parents can do is to read with their children daily! Ask your children questions about what they read and check for comprehension. Please check our website regularly to access links to free resources and learning opportunities.

Will My Child Still Take State-Mandated Assessments This Year?

All state-mandated assessments have been cancelled in Georgia for this school year.

What If My Child Was Scheduled To Take The SAT or ACT This Spring?

SAT/ACT testing waived for University System of Georgia (USG) admission. SAT/ACT testing has been **suspended for the remainder of the school year**. USG will be waiving SAT/ACT entrance requirements for admissions.

Will Prom Be Rescheduled?

At this time, all school events have been cancelled for the remainder of the year. Should school reopen, and CDC and state guidelines allow gatherings of large crowds, then we will consider rescheduling the prom. This decision will come later.

Will WCPS Be Open To Pick Up Cookie Dough Ordered As A Fundraiser?

We appreciate everyone who supported our students and school by participating in the Cookie Dough Fundraiser! We have requested the vendor to delay delivery of the cookie dough until after Spring Break when we hope schools are back in session. WCSD is following CDC guidelines on not exposing our personnel and schools unnecessarily to COVID-19. We appreciate everyone's understanding!

I continue to encourage everyone to think outside of their own circles when considering health risks and <u>best practices</u> for prevention of COVID-19! Prevention is everyone's responsibility!

Stay Safe!

Sincerely,

Bill Settle, Superintendent Worth County Schools