

March 17, 2020

SJSD families and staff,

After much discussion and consideration, the St. Joseph School District will remain closed through April 3, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The closure applies to all SJSD schools, extra-curricular activities and practices, Adult Education and Literacy, Hillyard Technical Center and early childhood programs.

We recognize that this decision will have a wide-reaching impact on many people, so we are developing plans to support our community during this time.

Here are details we can share right now:

- Students are on spring break through March 20, and will not return to school on March 23 as previously scheduled.
- All schools will be closed through Friday, April 3.
- Parents will receive additional information about educational opportunities for our students in the coming days.
- Arrangements are being made to provide food to students who may experience food insecurity during this time. More details will be available soon.
- Altice has announced assistance for qualifying households with K-12 and/or college students who may be displaced due to school closures and who do not currently have home internet access. Additional information [is available here](#).
- Information will be forthcoming about how parents can secure their child's medication from our nurses' offices.
- We value our employees and realize there are a lot of questions about the impact of this closure on staff. Additional information will be shared later this week on the district's plans to meet the needs of staff and students during this challenging time.

While our school buildings may be closed, the SJSD team will continue to work to minimize the impact this will have on our students, employees and community. During the closure, all schools and district facilities will undergo additional deep cleanings with recommended disinfectants.

It is important to remember that the goal of a school closure is to lessen the impact of the virus. We ask that staff, families and community members follow the guidance of the CDC and Buchanan County Health Department. The CDC recommends the best way to

stop the spread in a community is to limit exposure to others. We encourage the community to continue hand washing and follow other [recommendations from the CDC](#) about how to avoid the spread of illness.

We wanted to share this information with you now to allow families time to prepare for the extended closure. Additional information, with details and specifics, will be shared soon and ongoing updates will be provided at www.sjsd.k12.mo.us.

Thank you for your understanding and flexibility as we manage this evolving situation.

Dr. Doug Van Zyl
Superintendent
St. Joseph School District
Office: 816-671-4000
www.sjsd.k12.mo.us