

April 9, 2020

Dear Families,

As many of you may already know, Governor Inslee announced the closure of all schools in the state for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. This closure is an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep our communities safe and healthy. While we anticipated that this decision was forthcoming, it still saddens me to think that kids and staff will not return to our hallways and classrooms this school year. With that said, although the proclamation has closed our facilities, it has certainly not stopped learning and adaptive forms of instruction for students.

I want to assure you that quality education will continue for students in the Cashmere School District. It may look and feel a little different, but I am confident in the abilities of our educators to continue to provide meaningful education during this unprecedented time. Since the start of the COVID pandemic, I have seen our staff continuously demonstrate hope, optimism and a “whatever it takes” attitude, with the intent of serving our kids and families to the best of our abilities! We have altered our practices, aligned our priorities and we will get through this together.

We understand that the continued closure of schools presents many challenges for students and families. It also raises many questions, some of which we are working to get the answers to. Please review our plans for the following areas below:

- **Distance Learning:** While our physical schools are closed, learning will continue through the remainder of the school year (June 19, 2020). Staff continue to plan and adjust our distance learning program in order to provide the best education for all students. Staff are working hard to:
 - Identify the “essential” learning standards (What are the critical skills and content students need to learn in order to progress to the next year of their learning?)
 - Modify/coordinate our schedules to maximize efficiency and convenience for our students and families.
 - Ensure equity and accessibility to the best of our ability.
 - Stay connected to our most vulnerable students and continue to provide all students with social and emotional support.

***Following Spring Break, schools will send out the latest updates and information on distance learning to all students and families.

- **Student Meal Service:** We will continue to provide meals to students who need them Monday-Friday. Students living within the city limits can pick up meals at Vale Elementary from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. For students living outside of the city limits, we are running our “late start” bus routes and delivering meals at each stop. If you have questions about meal service, please do not hesitate to contact Tracy Lane at tlane@cashmere.wednet.edu.
- **Child Care:** The district will continue to provide child care for children of first responders and medical personnel from 8 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. If your child is already enrolled in child care during school closures, you do not need to take further action to keep your slot. If you have questions about child care, please contact Rhett Morgan at rmorgan@cashmere.wednet.edu.

- **High School Seniors:** One of our first priorities during school closure is to make sure that all seniors will have the opportunity to earn credits and stay “on track” for graduation. The district is awaiting further guidance from the State Board of Education regarding credit requirements, grading, etc. We are also working with the state’s college system, technical schools, military, etc., to ensure smooth transitions.
- **Graduation Ceremonies:** We remain committed to working closely with seniors and their families to determine how best to honor the Class of 2020 given the circumstances. At the same time, we remain hopeful that we are able to host traditional graduation ceremonies in June.
- **Summer School:** We are awaiting information from Governor Inslee on whether school facilities will be open to provide school over the summer.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding during this unprecedented time. Please continue to take good care of yourselves and your families. This is difficult for all of us, but we will embrace this challenge and get through it together. More information can be found on the district [website](#). If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call the district at (509) 782-3355.

Sincerely,

Glenn Johnson
Superintendent
Cashmere School District