

School Closure Update

We have included some updates below from the district in regards to where things stand on some items for the remainder of the school year.

Before going through each of those, I do want to say that we appreciate the effort that everyone is putting forth in this current setting. We know that some subjects are more difficult than others – making it more difficult for you to assist your child/children. We know that there may be multiple children at home that need assistance and/or computer time. We know that everyone is very stressed with jobs, healthcare, schoolwork, families, etc. – we are too. At the same time, as a school district it is our job and responsibility to continue to try to teach students as best we can. All we ask is that everyone do the best they can with the situation at hand – that is all any of us can do.

Please keep in mind that not a one of our teachers were hired because they could teach online classes. They were hired to do a job that involves a roomful of kiddos. They have done a tremendous job transitioning and adapting to this new environment for learning. Obviously some people are more advanced and comfortable than others in dealing with tech-related teaching and learning. Those who were not so computer savvy have done a great job improving their skills in a very short amount of time. Every staff member will continue to improve their skills and become more comfortable in what they are doing – but it is not the same as having students in the classroom.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation through all of this. Here are a few updates as things stand right now from the district:

8th Grade trip to Washington DC – has not been cancelled/postponed by the travel company as of yet. However, the school district will try to work with the company to establish alternate dates for the trip in the event it does get re-scheduled rather than cancelled completely. There may not be much flexibility in the dates we are given. More information will be posted in a Schoology group as it becomes available.

Italy/Greece Trip – has already been postponed until the summer of 2021.

Prom – we hope to be able to host some form of prom this year. However, details for this will not be worked out until we get a better idea of what the current situation looks like in the months ahead. Due to circumstances beyond our control it may not be as formal as previous years.

Graduation – graduation is still on our calendar for the end of May. We have had some informal discussions about alternatives in the event we are not able to do this in May. Again, depending upon the circumstances, we may have to get creative and it may or may not be a “typical” graduation ceremony. We certainly want to make sure our seniors get the recognition they deserve.

School Work – teachers will continue to put lessons online. If there is something your child does not understand, please use the email button in Schoology to reach out to the classroom teacher. If the classroom teacher is dismissive of those requests please contact the building principal. Teachers will continue to enter grades in ProgressBook for the 4th quarter as they normally would. Students are still responsible to complete their school work as posted online. Even if students do not completely understand something they should still show teachers they have tried in order to receive a passing grade.

Spring Break – the district will continue to maintain and recognize our schedule for spring break. Students will not be required to do any work (except missing or late work) April 9 – 13 and staff should not be posting any work during this time frame, nor will they be expected to respond to emails or posts during this time. Please use it as an opportunity to step away from technology.

State Mandated Testing & End-of-Course Exams – testing will not take place for the remainder of the school year. End of course exams will not have an impact on those graduating this year. Those students who were on-track to graduate will be able to do so, assuming they complete their online coursework in a satisfactory manner.

AP Testing and Career/Vocational Class Testing – AP Testing appears to be going the route of being completed online this year. Those students seeking a score that will make them eligible to receive college credit will still be required to take their tests online from home. More information will be forthcoming about AP tests. Students taking classes with Mrs. Larimore, Mrs. Amstutz, or Mr. Pohlman – Apollo satellite classes - may still be required to take the end of course testing as there has not been any relief from that testing platform as of yet if the buildings are open in May.

Third Grade Reading Guarantee - Many third-grade students already met the promotion threshold after the fall administration of the third-grade English language arts assessment — either by achieving the necessary overall scale score or the reading subscore. Newly enacted Ohio law temporarily removes the requirement that a student meet the promotion threshold for the 2019-2020 school year to advance to fourth grade. Specifically, no school district shall retain a student in the third grade following the 2019-2020 school year based solely on the student’s academic performance in reading. *However, if the student’s principal and reading teacher agree the student’s reading skills demonstrate the student is reading below grade level and is not academically prepared to be promoted to fourth grade, the student may be retained.*

School Musical – An attempt will be made to see if we are able to give the students that have spent countless hours preparing “*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*” an opportunity to display their talents. There is a lot of questions as to whether costumes, lighting, students, etc. will even be available to do this. Hopefully we will be able to come up with an alternate date in the near future.

We will continue to keep you posted as more tentative dates are established for events. We also recognize that any news dates selected will simply not necessarily work for everyone.

Additional Online Resources for Families:

[Khan Academy](#) – This is a great free resource that students and parents can use as another resource to learn about a new topic. Whether it be addition and subtraction or the highest level statistics course, there are resources (short video clips) here for everyone – and not just in math. Lessons are available in science, history, reading, etc.

[TecMath](#) - This channel obsesses over methods to make maths easier! It uses short video clips for instruction.

[Learn Math Tutorials](#) – Another site providing short video clips on a variety of math topics.