



Friess Lake Elementary School

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Richfield Middle School

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March 13, 2020

Dear Families,

The health of our students, staff, families, communities and most vulnerable population is of the utmost importance and we support all efforts to reduce the impact of COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released guidelines for school districts on school closures on March 13, 2020. In consideration of the unprecedented situation in Wisconsin and the nation, this afternoon the Washington-Ozaukee Public Health Department informed our district that they support “medium length” school closures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. This coincides with President Trump’s declaration of a national emergency and the declaration of a state of emergency by Washington County.

Therefore, effective Monday, March 16, 2020, the Holy Hill Area School District, along with the following school districts: Kewaskum, West Bend, Slinger, Hartford Union High School, Hartford Jt. 1, Herman-Neosho-Rubicon, and Erin will be closing for the next four weeks with the possibility of extension. **This means that our district, along with others, will be closed for a four week period with school tentatively resuming April 14, 2020.** While we will continue to collaborate with other area districts, any further adjustments to school calendars will be handled by individual school districts through local control. Our district has an individual plan to navigate this closure. See below for additional information.

During the school closing, all HHASD students will participate in virtual learning. On Monday, March 16th, teachers at RMS and FLES will prepare online materials to be shared with students beginning Tuesday, March 17th. Accommodations and alternatives to online learning for students with disabilities will be provided. The district is exploring the option of allowing special education students access to services during school hours while school is closed to ensure IEP services can continue (i.e. speech, OT, PT, etc.). Your child’s special education case manager will be in communication with you to discuss options.

Virtual learning activities will not take place during our regularly scheduled spring break (March 23-March 27). Virtual learning will resume on March 30th until we tentatively resume on April 14th. To accommodate students that do not have access to technology at home, HHASD will provide a Chromebook rental at no cost. Rental information will be available on Monday; it is necessary to

complete the technology sign-up prior to obtaining a device. In addition, any families that wish to retrieve items from either FLES or RMS will be available to do so on March 16th and 17th between 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

Please watch your email for updates throughout this closure period. The updates will also be posted on the [HHASD COVID - 19](#) webpage. There are also resources on this same web page with more information on COVID-19.

The impact of a single case in any one school in a district is extremely significant. If one student or staff member becomes infected, everyone who was in close contact will need to be quarantined for 14 days. Close contact includes anyone who spends time, within six feet, of the positive case. When considering the proximity of a school environment, the contacts and exposures grow exponentially, and quickly. We are supporting closures before community transmission is confirmed to greatly reduce further spread of the COVID-19 in the community. We recommend that you follow the CDC and Public Health Department guidelines regarding social distancing and group size for gathering.

This county-wide four-week school closure has been put in place because all public and private schools are thinking of the health of our students, staff, families, and communities, especially those most vulnerable to this particular virus. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding of this fluid situation.

Your Partners in Education,

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