

## Triopia CUSD #27

2204 Concord-Arenzville Road

Concord, IL 62631

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[www.triopiacusd27.org](http://www.triopiacusd27.org)



March 14th, 2020

Dear Students, Parents, and Community Members:

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Governor J.B. Pritzker announced the closing of all schools in Illinois to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The dates of the closing are from March 17<sup>th</sup> through March 30<sup>th</sup>. At this point, school will resume on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The governor has declared these "Act of God" days which do not extend the school calendar. With guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education, our school attorney Dennis Weedman, our regional office of education and our regional superintendent Jill Reis, and many other local superintendents, Triopia CUSD #27 will proceed with the following plan:

- Students will be sent home with work that will be aimed at continual academic engagement. Teachers can include review materials and an introduction to some new topics that may be covered when school resumes. While these materials cannot be used to affect student grade, just know that the district will brainstorm ways in order to reward students who take this work seriously.
- Triopia CUSD #27 has applied for a waiver to still serve sack lunches to students throughout this hiatus. While the plan is not finalized, just know that the district plans to have drop off at locations in all three communities and pick up outside of the school. We are also exploring options of delivery to children who can't make it to a drop-off point. We understand that social distancing is being asked of all of us, however, we worry about our students and their need for a meal. The plan is meant to be as quick and with as little contact as possible.
- During this extended absence, we understand that emergency counseling may be needed. We worry about our students being away from the mental health resources they sometimes rely on. Just know that the Triopia staff will do whatever we can do to help students in need. Students are encouraged to reach out during certain situations. If it is an emergency, the district recommends calling the authorities.
- At this point, all spring sports activities are postponed. No practices or contests will resume until school resumes.
- The superintendent's office will remain open during the duration of this closure.

On another note, I know this can prove to be a difficult time for working parents. Just know that I've been thinking about the ramifications of this and I realize how hard that's going to be. However, this is an unprecedented situation and I hope, as the experts say, this can help "flatten the curve" of the cases of COVID-19.

Another thing I ask of all students and parents is to take the work the teachers send home seriously. While we understand there is nothing that can replace the rigor of being in the classroom, it is important that students keep their mind engaged with more than Netflix and Fortnite. Two weeks is a long time. If your students complete the work, find more supplemental materials online for them to do. I'm sure your child's teacher can help you with this if necessary.

Finally, my suggestion is for everyone to take the recommendations of our country's and state leaders seriously. If they are asking schools to close their doors, then maybe it's a good idea to quarantine a bit. Also, enjoy this time together as families. We are in an unprecedented situation. If we are going to be forced to be with our loved ones, my suggestion is to appreciate that time together.

Sincerely,

*Adam Dean*

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Superintendent