

# *South Lewis Central School District*

**Mr. Douglas Premo, Superintendent**

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March 16, 2020

Dear South Lewis School Community:

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) has communities and schools throughout our state, country and the world on edge and responding in ways that none of us could have ever imagined. As a precautionary measure to limit exposure and contact, the South Lewis CSD has decided to close school to students from Monday, March 16 through Friday, April 17. At this time students are scheduled to return to school on Monday, April 20.

This situation continues to quickly evolve. There continues to be more questions than answers. However, below is important information in key areas that we wanted to communicate quickly.

## **Student Work/Assignments**

Staff members are currently preparing educational resources for students to help them practice skills and maintain knowledge during this absence. Due to access and equitability concerns, it is impossible to provide continued instruction that would replicate traditional educational learning. While we hope our students and families utilize these educational resources during the school closure, it is important to recognize that this work will not be graded or assessed upon return.

A resource packet is being created for each student. These packets, and any personal belongings that are needed, can be picked up at the following times and locations:

- Wednesday – Friday in each school cafeteria from 8:00am to 3:00pm
- Thursday evening from 3:00 pm to 7:00pm.

Should any resource packets not be picked up by Friday, they will then either be mailed or delivered to each home.

## **Food Services**

We are offering delivery of free meals to ALL students in the District. Parents will need to sign up to receive a free breakfast and lunch by calling the Food Service Department at 315-348-2543. We plan to deliver meals beginning on Thursday, March 19th. On this day two days of food will be provided. Starting next week we plan on delivering on Monday and Wednesday of each week. On Monday we will deliver food for Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday, we will deliver food for Wednesday through Friday.

Families can call to add your students to the list for free meal delivery at anytime during the school closure period.

Additionally, our school district offers a “Backpack Program” for needy families. This service provides nonperishable food items for all family members. Should your family need food assistance and would be interested in being added to our “Backpack Program,” please contact our Transportation Department at 315-348-2590.

### **District Operations**

During the closure of school to students there are several essential functions and critical operations of the school district that will remain open.

Our District Office, Business Office, Transportation Office, Special Education Office, and Main Building Offices will be open each day from 7:30am to 3:30pm each day. Additionally, our Counseling staff and Guidance Services will be open and available to meet with students by appointment. School governance, such as Board of Education meetings, will continue.

Our buildings will remain locked at all times, even during the open hours from 7:30am to 3:30pm each day. All visitors will need to be “buzzed” in and be checked-in through our Safety Desk. There will be health and wellness protocols and questions for any visitors before being granted access. Visitors will not be allowed in our buildings outside of the 7:30am to 3:30pm hours.

During this closure period for students, all athletics and extracurricular are suspended. Additionally, community use of our buildings from any outside groups is also suspended.

It is also important to note that the District will maintain continuous and on-going cleaning and disinfection of our campus throughout the closure period.

### **In Closing**

Over the coming days and weeks, we will continue to monitor this developing situation. We will continue to consult with our regional colleagues and state health, education and governmental officials. We will update you with new information and developments. We will continue to adjust and adapt as necessary. We will continue to provide you information and resources.

Please know that our focus remains on the children that we serve and what we can do to help them make it through this crisis.

Sincerely,



Douglas Premo  
Superintendent of Schools