



# CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 51

*Encourage Excellence Every Day with Compassion, Commitment, and Community*

March 16, 2020

Dear Central School District Families and Staff,

Thank you all for being patient and understanding during this unprecedented time. We continue to work quickly and diligently to get information out to everyone when it is made available. This is a very fluid situation and guidance from the ISBE is coming out daily. Sunday morning, superintendents from across the state participated in town-hall style conference calls. During this time, we were able to ask questions to clarify the State's plan moving forward.

## **What do we know?**

- After much discussion with our district administrators, Central 51 buildings will be closed on Monday, March 16 for an emergency day due to COVID-19. This is an official e-Learning day as it is outside of the Governor's directive to begin closures on the 17th. Attendance will be taken and e-Learning grades will be counted. Work assigned for this day will be collected when students return to school.
- District schools will also be closed March 17- March 30 as directed by the Governor.
- ISBE has designated Tuesday, March 17 through Monday, March 30 as "Act of God" days. Act of God days are not student attendance days and will not need to be made up at the end of the school year. Therefore, we are not required or allowed to take attendance or grade any school work that may be done beginning Tuesday, March 17th.
- The ISBE has recommended that districts provide continuous learning opportunities for students. Because we know this is equally important to our families, teachers will be posting information online about educational resources and content to help parents/guardians that wish to work with their students to keep up their skills and give them learning opportunities. We will be able to provide resources in both paper and online format. If you need something specific, please contact your child's teacher. We will work to accommodate any needs that may arise. We know that this school work is not required by law, but we are committed to providing learning opportunities for our students for the duration of the school closure. We encourage our students to keep up their skills, and we look forward to partnering with you during this time.
- Only necessary staff will be allowed in the schools during the closure and offices will be closed.
- Teachers will continue to be available via email between 9:00am and 2:30pm from March 16 through March 20 and on March 30.

- Spring Break will continue as planned for the week of March 23-27. There will be no learning opportunities offered during that time.
- We will resume offering learning opportunities on March 30.
- The Governor's directive stated that students may return to schools March 31, but he has stated that the closure may be extended.

**Additional Information and Reminders:**

- During this time, our custodial staff will utilize disinfecting bombs throughout the buildings and will complete a deep cleaning.
- While at home, please remember to clean your electronic devices (phones, chromebooks, iPads, etc.).
- We are working with several local agencies to ensure students in need have food. If you or a Central student you know is in need of food and a school official has not reached out already, please contact me directly.
- The symptoms of coronavirus are similar to the regular seasonal influenza and include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite, and coughing. Some people with coronavirus have reported additional symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. In some situations, the virus can develop into pneumonia. Parents, students, and staff members exhibiting flu-like symptoms are asked to contact their primary care physician for further instruction and to notify the Tazewell County Health Department via their COVID-19 line at 309-929-0294. Individuals needing medical care for any other reason should call their medical provider to report their illness prior to seeking care at a clinic, physician's office, or hospital to verify their ability to treat additional cases.
- As a reminder to your student(s) to practice good hygiene, consider printing and placing [this poster](#) around the house.

As you can see, this situation is ever changing. Again, thank you for your patience and understanding as we adjust to new information when it becomes available.

Right now, our plan is to resume school on Tuesday, March 31. We will let you know if things change. Please let me know if you have any questions or if you have a specific need for your student during this time.

Sincerely,



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