

March 16, 2020

Dear West Valley Parents,

As most of you know Governor Bullock made a decision to close all Montana schools through March 27. First and foremost let me state that the decision to close schools had nothing to do with a known case of Coronavirus in our school. Instead, it is being done as a precautionary measure to slow the spread of the Coronavirus in Montana and nationwide. We understand the inconvenience this may bring to West Valley families. We feel it was a responsible action for the Governor to take at this time.

I encourage all of you to follow the recommendations of the Governor and the healthcare community, including the CDC and the Flathead County Health District to slow the spread of the virus.

Here is the latest information regarding our school closure and websites you can go to for additional information on the Coronavirus during our school closure:

- During the week of March 16-20, all school instruction will be suspended. Our teachers will be spending time preparing lessons for a possible extended closure after the spring break. There would not have been instruction during the week of March 23-27, spring break
- To prepare for possible distance learning, please take our short survey regarding internet capability and computer access in your home- <https://forms.gle/AdV8he3ypgDCHFxm9>
- All IEP, 504 and other meetings are postponed until further notice
- All report cards and progress reports will be delayed until further notice. Parents wishing to check their child's grades can access them via Infinite Campus (Middle School only)
- All field trips, extracurricular events and concerts are cancelled through the end of the school year
- Please be reminded that the purpose of this closure is to create social distancing. Refer to the [CDC website](#) for more guidance related to the coronavirus. Also, [Flathead County Health Department](#) is providing information and updates
- Unless we have new information to share with you regarding school closure from the state or federal government, our next correspondence will be Friday, March 20th
- [Governor Bullock's Official Statement](#)

"I was once told in times of crises everyone looks to the leader to match their reaction. Our first job is to model calm and strength. Our kids are watching us. Panic and frenzy will only put them in a state of terror. Be their rock. Model stability." - Mandy Froehlich

Respectfully,

Cal Ketchum
Superintendent
West Valley School District