



## Unified School District No. 290

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USD 290 students, staff, families, and patrons,

This afternoon, March 17, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. Governor Kelly announced that all school facilities across Kansas will be closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. We recognize the hardship and burden that this will place on our families and community as well as the impact on the learning and social and emotional wellbeing of our students.

USD 290 has been working with the Kansas State Department of Education for the past week as to how we might meet the needs of our students, families, and community should a shutdown of this magnitude occur. There are a number of regulations and guidelines that we have to meet, however, we do have a plan ready to propose to the Board of Education to provide food service for all of our students as well as continued payment for staff during this closure.

KSDE and educators across the State feel it imperative that a shutdown of schools does not mean a shutdown of learning. There will be a statewide expectation that schools provide continual learning for our students, however, the look of that learning will be definitively different than what we have become accustomed to. KSDE will be releasing guidelines for what that learning could and should look like by Thursday at the latest. USD 290 building administrators will meet with me on Friday to determine how we best implement those strategies, train our staff, and ensure that our students have access to that learning. As that plan develops we will make sure that we communicate it to all of our parents. I will also be working with Franklin County health officials to ensure that any plan we put into place for student learning will meet their expectations.

There are still many questions to be answered and we are committed to finding those solutions and ensuring that we work together as a community to support our students, staff, and one another through these unprecedented times. The USD 290 Board of Education will meet on Thursday to address some of these issues. The President of the United States has issued a

proclamation that we do not host groups over 10. Although there are many of you that want to know about, or be a part of this discussion, we would ask that you choose not to attend and watch virtually on Friday morning via our website to learn more. I will also post any plans our board approves to a number of social media platforms as well as an email to parents.

Thank you all for your continued patience as we navigate uncharted waters. USD 290 very much appreciates your support and the many of you who have reached out to volunteer to help in a number of capacities. Together we make our community very strong, and together we will find the resolve to continue to do the very best for our students!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Cobbs", is centered within a light gray rectangular box. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Dr. Ryan Cobbs  
Superintendent  
Ottawa USD 290