Date: March 17, 2020

To: Riverside School Community

From: Robert W. Blair, Superintendent

Subject: School Update

Today at 4:00 pm, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly announced the statewide closure of all Kansas school buildings, ceasing in-person instruction through the duration of the 2019-2020 school year. Our school, like all other Kansas schools will be implementing a Continuous Learning Plan for students beginning the week of March 30, 2020. Based on the guidance I was given today by KSDE, I am confident that the 2019-2020 school year will not have to be extended beyond the previously scheduled last day of school in May.

The Kansas State Department of Education will be releasing the Continuous Learning Guidelines to schools tomorrow evening at 5:00 pm. During the week of March 23rd, our district teachers will return to work and begin preparing instruction for students. We anticipate that the vast majority of the learning will take place via online learning and/or learning packets. Prior to the week of March 30th, we will provide parents and students with guidance pertaining to the new learning delivery guidelines we develop to meet the new state guidelines.

Following the recommendations of KSDE and the Kansas Governor, USD 114 will implement the following timeline to provide for the education of our students at Riverside:

Timeline:
Week of March 16-20: We will continue to deep clean all buildings and principals and curriculum directors will begin planning for the new KSDE continuous learning guidelines. All school buildings will remain closed.

Week of March 23-27: Teachers will return to plan for the delivery of instruction to students for the remainder of the school year based on the Continuous
Learning Task Force guidelines. Buildings will continue to be closed to the public.

Week of March 30-April 3: Teachers will begin providing instruction to students for the remainder of the school year based on the Continuous Learning Plan.

We are still advised by the CDC and President Trump not to have groups of 10 or more people in one area. At this time, schools have been advised that all spring activities and events, including graduations and proms will be canceled to comply with the CDC guidelines.

The grab and go breakfast and lunch program that starts tomorrow will continue through the remainder of the school year. Again, both daily meals will be free for all students.

As we continue to partner with you during this transition period, we appreciate your continued patience. I can promise you that our great staff will think out of the box and develop student instruction that will be the very best under these difficult circumstances. Over the coming days, I will continue to provide you with updates as the situation warrants. Flexibility will be key for all of us as this continues to be a rapidly changing situation. The timeline above is based on the guidance school superintendents were given today in our KSDE daily briefing.

Thank you for your continued positive support of our school and community.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Blair, Superintendent