



ALASKA GATEWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Scott MacManus – Superintendent of Schools

Date: March 13, 2020 (12:23am)
To: All AGSD Staff
From: Scott MacManus, Superintendent
RE: COVID-19

Good evening,

With Springbreak starting tomorrow, I wanted to share some information with everyone about what is happening with this highly fluid situation. The Governor has declared a state of emergency, and the first patient in Alaska was identified today in Anchorage. The way the COVID-19 Pandemic is playing out it is becoming evident that as a nation we are poorly prepared to handle a massive influx of patients, which makes it all the more critical that we work together to mitigate and slow down the impact over the next several weeks.

The main issue so far is the critical impact COVID-19 will probably have on our elders who are over 60 years with existing health conditions, who are our most at-risk population. They need to be protected as much as possible. Dr. Anne Zink, Chief Medical Officer, State of Alaska, has also emphasized the need for “flattening the curve” with regard to the spread of COVID-19...it is critical that as I said last week, that we work together to slow down the spread of the infection so that our healthcare workers are not overwhelmed with patients.

Effective immediately, and until further notice, all staff travel out of district to conferences, events, games, sporting events professional development or state conferences are placed on hold. We are also looking at postponing or cancelling entirely upcoming tournaments. This will be determined very soon.

Dot Lake has taken the positive preemptive step to cancel their student trip to Hawaii. I have notified the other two groups who are hoping to travel this spring, to be aware that their travel plans may have to be postponed. My suspicion is that this decision will be taken out of our hands pretty soon, anyway, but it does not hurt us to be aware of this, and holdout hope.

Please be aware that there is some discussion as well, regarding extending out Springbreak for an extra week. This is NOT yet decided, but I would appreciate your input, and also informing your staff before they leave for the week that this issue is under discussion. While I know that people have plans, this would be a great year for a staycation. I am meeting in the morning with a statewide working group of educators on a collective response, and will be sharing out in a letter to all staff after that.

I am expecting to meet with the RSB early next week so that we can discuss a unified approach. Let's work together, and look out for each other and our neighbors. Keep checking our website, and I will make keeping everyone informed a top priority, while we work through this.

Thank you everyone.

Scott MacManus, Superintendent
smacmanus@agsd.us

“Educating all students to reach their full potential as responsible citizens”

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