

WISNER-PILGER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

801 18th Street, P.O. Box 580
Wisner, Nebraska 68791

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
(402) 529-6465

JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
(402) 529-3249

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT
(402) 529-3248

Attention Wisner-Pilger Elementary Parents:

We are currently living in an unprecedented time in our lives at home, work, and school. Never before in the history of public education have we experienced extended closures to this extreme level. This closure has impacted each of our individual households in a way that we cannot fully comprehend at this point in time. Many families are experiencing unimaginable hardships. All of this is because of a microscopic Coronavirus that humankind doesn't have preexisting immunities to, nor does a vaccine exist for.

Since the closure on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, our primary educational focus has been on enriching prior taught material. At school, we have referred to this time as Phase 1. After making the difficult decision to close our doors for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, we were provided guidance from the Nebraska Department of Education that our efforts should shift away from maintaining existing concepts and toward moving forward with a continuing education plan. Our school is currently in the initial stages of developing an educational plan that provides a continuity of learning for our students. Moving forward we will refer to this next period of time during the closure as Phase 2. Wisner-Pilger Elementary teachers will be using our mission statement and core beliefs as a guide for structuring learning experiences during Phase 2. Our mission statement and core beliefs are attached to this correspondence.

Officially, we will be moving away from Phase 1 at the conclusion of the day on Friday, April 3, 2020. Together, we will be beginning our Continuity of Learning Plan: Phase 2 on Monday, April 6. We will be sharing more specifics about Phase 2 as it is finalized over the next few days in a common message to all families.

As educators, we are aware of the emotional distresses that these circumstances have brought upon households. During this closure many parents have been left to scramble to find childcare. Some households are worried about reduction or loss of wages. A few are struggling with both childcare and wage constraints at the same time. All of this on top of a looming uneasiness with safe public practices and social distancing can lead to a new level of stress not experienced before by many families. We empathize with these conditions and feelings and have no intention of developing a continuity of learning plan that will add to the stress level in your homes.

Prior to our closure we asked families to provide a time and place for homework. We also asked families to connect with the school through the Seesaw app. These two expectations for families will continue. One, provide a time and a place for schoolwork at home. Two, connect with school through the Seesaw. Throughout the current week, our teachers will be working to make a personal connection with each family over the phone. Teachers will be checking in on your family's well-being, and they will also collect some information from each family pertaining to internet connectivity and device accessibility. We look forward to these opportunities to speak with you directly.

I'd like to close this letter the same way I opened it. We are living in unprecedented times. There is no playbook for what a continuity of learning plan looks like for any school across our great nation. It is our mission to continue to provide purposeful learning experiences and opportunities to succeed for ALL of our students at Wisner-Pilger Elementary throughout this closure.

Sincerely,

Mark D. Porter

Mark Porter-Wisner-Pilger Elementary Principal



MISSION STATEMENT

**Wisner-Pilger
Public Schools
is committed
to providing
all students
with purposeful
learning experiences and
opportunities to succeed.**

Wisner-Pilger Public Schools believe:

1. A quality education is a collaborative effort among educators, students, and parents and is vital to achieving student success.
2. High expectations challenge students and teachers to reach their full potentials.
3. Positive and caring relationships promote students' mental, physical, and emotional growth.
4. A progressive and innovative education prepares all students to be contributing citizens and to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.
5. Diverse educational opportunities and individualized instruction equip students with the knowledge and skills to achieve attainable goals.