

USD 489 Families and Staff,

Today, March 17, 2020, Governor Kelly announced all school facilities will be closed for the remainder of the 2019–2020 school year. I understand this decision does place tremendous hardship on our families and staff, and impact the social and emotional well-being of our students.

We have begun working on contingency plans, including how we can meet the ongoing learning needs of our students, as well as, how we can continue to provide breakfast and lunch for our students. These plans are still being put together, and we will be sharing them as soon as we know more. Next week we will plan to recognize our traditional Spring Break and any information that will be shared will come after April 1.

Our staff and board of education will also be working on other critical issues, such as what this all means for our seniors, and how this will affect our next school year and what impact this will have on our school employees. We will also provide updates on these issues as soon as the information is available.

USD 489 Hays is committed to working together as a community to support one another throughout these unprecedented times, and communication will remain a top priority. Please stay updated as we will continue to post to our school's live feed on our websites, as well as Facebook and Twitter.

As a reminder, this school closure is in response to the current public health crisis. The focus should remain on preventing the spread the coronavirus, or COVID–19 as it is also referred to.

Please be mindful of the following:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing (cough/sneeze into your sleeve or a tissue).
- Please keep sick children at home.
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.

Follow additional guidance from these sources:

- [National Center for Disease Control](#) (CDC)
- [Kansas Department of Health and Environment](#) (KDHE)

Ron Wilson

USD 489 Hays Superintendent

#EveryStudentEveryDay489