

# Norris City-Omaha-Enfield Community Unit Schools District No. 3

**Matthew J. Vollman, Superintendent**

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March 30, 2020

Dear NCOE parents, guardians, and students:

To say this has been an unprecedented time in our world, nation, and schools is an understatement! I know many families are dealing with many issues during this current pandemic that has caused many burdens and stresses. We as a school district want to be sensitive to those issues and concerns and be a resource to help during this time. We want to help meet any need by providing the best assistance and available resources to continue your child's education.

Gov. JB Pritzker announced that schools would be closed through April 8, 2020. He also announced that schools would have "Act of God days" until Monday, March 30, 2020. "Act of God" days are deemed non-instructional days that are not to be made up, but schools were highly encouraged to help continue meeting educational needs for students during this time.

The Illinois State Board of Education released guidance late Friday night with a plan to move forward during this school closure. This plan will start Tuesday, March 31, until school resumes as normal. This new plan is called "Remote Learning Days." These days, like the Act of God days, will not be made up later. The difference in the days is simply this: Remote Learning Days are considered student attendance days where a continuation of learning is expected. As a result, a grade will be given to a student for their work. However, this will not be a grade in the traditional sense of an A, B, C, etc. Grades will be based on a "Pass or Incomplete" basis. Students will have the opportunity to redo, make up, or try again to complete, show progress, or attempt to complete the work if needed. There will also be flexibility regarding any work during this time period. We believe in no way that this can replace the value of your child receiving face-to-face instruction by their teachers in a traditional school setting. We are simply trying to help educate and meet the needs of your child with the limited capabilities that are available in this current crisis. However, we want to emphasize that continued progress towards learning is essential. All possible effort is highly recommended to provide your student with a continued education.

Make no mistake, our number one priority during this time is for the health, safety, and well-being of every child and family! While we believe education is of utmost importance, health and well-being comes first!

Here is a calendar of upcoming days:

- Monday, March 30 (Last Act of God Day)
- Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> – Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> (Remote Learning Plan Days For Staff)

- Monday, April 6—Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> (NCOE Scheduled Spring Break)
- Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> (Remote Learning Days Begin)—If necessary and further school closure is announced by the Governor

During this time period, you should still expect to hear from your child's teachers and administrators. Please do not hesitate to ask your teacher or administrator for any help or assistance to meet your child's educational needs. While we are facing many instructional limitations during this time, we want to make the best effort possible for you and your child!

Finally, as a reminder, school meals are still being provided. If you are interested in a school meal during this time of school closure, please contact either Booth Elementary (963-2818) or NCO elementary (378-3212) on Monday's or Wednesday's to place your meal order.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew J. Vollman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Matthew J Vollman, Superintendent