

To: Paris CUSD 4, Paris Union School District No. 95, and Paris High School Families and Staff
From: Mrs. Danette Young, Superintendent and Dr. Jeremy Larson, Superintendent
Subject: Letter to Families and Staff about Remote Learning Days (Preschool – 12th Grade)
Date: March 28, 2020

Dear Paris Students, Staff, and Families:

The Illinois State Board of Education provided additional guidance to school districts on March 27 regarding the implementation of a new type of school day – Remote Learning Days. Starting March 31, Paris CUSD 4, Paris Union School District No. 95, and Paris High School will begin implementing these days in accordance with the state guidance and regulations that govern these days. This letter is to inform you of the changes, and provide you a direct method to provide feedback, ask questions, or share concerns.

We would like to start by thanking you for your patience during this time. We recognize the hardship school closures cast upon a family and community. The Illinois State Board of Education and our community school districts share three goals during this time:

1. Ensure all students are safe and healthy.
2. Ensure all students' nutritional needs are met.
3. Ensure all students have access to remote instruction through whatever means possible.

Beginning March 17, 2020, Paris CUSD 4, Paris Union School District No. 95, and Paris High School partnered together to deliver meals throughout the community to those in need. As long as we are closed, the school districts will continue to offer food through the regularly scheduled school year. To sign up for food delivery, please text 217-264-0835 with your address and number of children needing meals. Pick-up is also available at Memorial, Wenz, and Mayo from 9 AM to 11 AM on school days, including spring break.

Due to the rural setting of Paris, internet access is a challenge for many of our families. Additionally, not every family has a computer at home that provides students with the opportunities to learn remotely. Our school districts have taken the following steps to help bridge the digital divide between households.

1. 150 chromebooks were provided for free to families on March 27. These chromebooks do not need to be returned, and they allow children to now access learning at home.
2. 10 hotspots will be deployed the week of March 30 throughout the community. Please watch for text alerts on the locations of these hotspots and directions.
3. 125 more chromebooks will be supplied in the coming week to families to further assist those that were not able to obtain a chromebook in the first event.

While we are doing our best as a community to provide resources and support, we also recognize this will not eliminate the digital divide for all families. The schools will continue to offer remote learning activities through the computer and through paper-based activities. These activities are designed to help provide instruction to your child at home so they do not experience learning loss. With the implementation of the new remote learning days, the Illinois State Board of Education put out guidance on how much time students should spend learning daily at home. Below is a chart for your review.

Grade Level	Minimum	Maximum	Recommended Length of Sustained Attention
PreK	20 minutes/day	60 minutes/day	3-5 minutes
K	30 minutes/day	90 minutes/day	3-5 minutes
1-2	45 minutes/day	90 minutes/day	5-10 minutes
3-5	60 minutes/day	120 minutes/day	10-15 minutes
6-8	Class: 15 minutes/day Total: 90 minutes/day	Class: 30 minutes/day Total: 180 minutes/day	1 subject area or class
9-12	Class: 20 minutes/day Total: 120 minutes/day	Class: 45 minutes/day Total: 270 minutes/day	1 subject area or class

Please note that the time spent on learning during remote learning days is significantly less than the amount of time spent during a regular school day. We recognize the challenge of at-home learning, and we encourage you to follow this chart to guide your time with your child.

Grades will be issued for the fourth quarter of school this year on student report cards. Grades for all classes district-wide will be as follows – Pass or Incomplete. No standard letter grades will be issued to students. This guideline was provided directly to school district from the Illinois State Board of Education. Each school will inform parents and students on how to earn a “pass” on their report card.

If your child has a disability, a staff member will be checking in with your child throughout the weeks we are closed. This is to offer support, encouragement, and problem solve any specific needs based upon your child’s disability. Please communicate with the staff member about any questions or concerns you have. Additionally, starting in April, case managers will be reaching out to parents to schedule phone meetings to update annual IEPs. Please let our case managers know the best way to communicate with you so we can develop a plan that meets your child’s needs for the upcoming school year.

Finally, we want to provide phone numbers for you so you have support to address any needs.

Mental Health Issues – 217-238-5700 (LifeLinks Mental Health and Wellness)

Health Issues – 217-465-2212 (Edgar County Health Department)

Paris CUSD 4 Direct Line – 217-465-5391

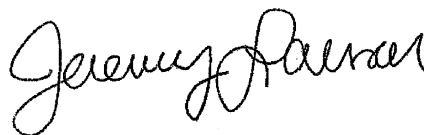
Paris Union School District No. 95 Direct Line – 217-466-3050

Thank you for your time and support. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Danette Young, Superintendent



Dr. Jeremy Larson, Superintendent