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RSU 57 prepares respectful, responsible and creative thinkers for success in the global community.

April 3, 2020

Dear RSU #57 Community (Mustang Nation)

I hope this update finds you and your family well. These are very unsettling times for everyone as we witness the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus across our state, nation, and world. The impact is complex and affects each individual in various ways. We expect you will make adjustments to your situations that best supports the wellness of you and your loved ones. We want you to know that we are here to support you and try our very best to balance the needs of families, students, and staff, especially in these unprecedented times. Please be sure to contact us if you are experiencing difficulties that we can assist you with, our staff is here for you and want to help!

Part of the procedures for ensuring our students are engaged daily and maintaining regular school routines is contacting homes. Although it may appear redundant, this communication provides us with the information to better serve your child's needs. Let's work together to ensure that children access schooling at this time.

Governor Mills has extended the shelter in place order through May 1, 2020. That means the earliest possible date schools could reopen is Monday, May 4, extending our previous date of April 27, 2020. Although everyone is hopeful that we can return on this date, we are making long range plans for the likelihood of ending school this year in a remote learning environment.

Teaching and Learning

We are making every effort to establish and support daily routines for your children. Maintaining daily connections with your children is our highest priority. It is through these connections that we are offering continuous learning opportunities to help students grow in their learning and remain engaged with all content areas. Teachers continue to be available for daily contact, instruction, and extra help through SeeSaw or Google Classroom as well as scheduled Zoom availability and email, as usual.

Initially, we had planned for a couple of weeks of remote schooling. More recently, it has become clear that our planning will need to sustain this remote learning mode for many weeks to come. We are working to ensure balance in learning expectations for the longer term. At home, this will look a little different depending on your child's grade level. For more about what to expect at each grade level and resources to support the learning, [please click here](#).

We encourage you to visit the [RSU57 Remote learning website](#), which is linked to our homepage www.rsu57.org. For Tech support, please email remotehelp@rsu57.org.

School Nutrition

Due to the concerns brought to our attention regarding the time commitments in attaining the meals daily, we are announcing updated changes to the delivery and pickup of meals taking effect on Monday, April 6, 2020.

- Meals delivered by bus will be delivered once per day, Monday through Friday. The meal delivery routes will run at the current scheduled lunch times, starting at 11:00am. Please visit the RSU 57 website for a list of routes and times.
- Each child will receive a bag containing one breakfast and one lunch. The intent is for the lunch to be consumed that day and the breakfast will be for the following morning.
- The two open meal sites located at Line Elementary and Massabesic Middle School will remain open as follows:
 - Monday 7:00am-9:00am -and- 11:00am-1:00pm
 - Wednesday 7:00am-9:00am -and- 11:00am-1:00pm
 - Friday 7:00am-9:00am -and- 11:00am-1:00pm

We ask that children are present at meal pick up each day. If your child cannot be present at the time of pick up, please call the Nutrition Office at (207) 247-3221 x2257 to obtain an alternative approval. We are committed to support you and will do our very best to assist you.

2019-2020 School Calendar

Reminder of the changes to the spring school calendar:

- April 17 & 20, Patriots Day and the preceding Friday, will be no student /staff days.
 - That allows a four-day respite.
 - All district buildings will be closed.
 - No Meal Program on these dates.
- April 21, 22, 23, and 24 will be school student /staff days.

We will review the calendar again and make adjustments based on a better understanding of any future executive orders. Perspective: A typical RSU 57 school year includes 176 student days, today is 127 (including converting the scheduled Early Release day as another student day). Stay connected with us.

School Board News

The RSU 57 Board will continue to conduct regularly scheduled meetings via zoom. The link to these meetings can be located in the events column on the district webpage. Click on the event and you will be directed to the meeting. Existing policies will be adhered to and all voting will be conducted by roll call.

Committee meetings are being addressed individually and held if deemed needed. The format will be similar to regular board meetings and can be found on the website as well.

News from Around the District

Playgrounds and outdoor spaces at RSU #57

During the Covid-19 pandemic the RSU is advising the public **NOT** to use the district's playgrounds. It is not possible at this time for these surfaces to be monitored and they are not disinfected in accordance with CDC guidelines. The District would also ask the public to use safe and established CDC social distancing (6') practices when using the district's fields and outdoor facilities. We thank you for your help in keeping our entire community safe and healthy.

Transportation

Please join me in welcoming our new Director of Transportation, Peter Roy who re-joined us on March 30th. Peter's name may be familiar to you as he served several years as our Dispatcher. He brings many years of experience in public dispatch and communication. We look forward to working with him in this capacity.

We said farewell to Matt Kearns last week as he moved on to his new endeavor. Matt is starting his own company, "School Transportation Training Services". Our thanks to Matt for his years of service to the district and wish him well moving forward.

District Health Update

Click here to read Mustang Nurse News

https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/645841/Mustang_Nurse_News_1_1.pdf

Staff Updates

New Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) requires certain employers, which includes school districts, to provide their qualifying employees with expanded paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. These reasons are established by the US Department of Labor and will apply from April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. These new federal benefits are in addition to any current benefits which employees are entitled to.

Appreciation

I wish to extend my ongoing appreciation to the entire staff for your flexibility and commitment to the RSU 57 community.

In closing, I wish to recognize those individuals and family members who are on the front lines, employees keeping us safe and providing for our necessities. These individuals include first responders, public safety, law enforcement, health care, public health, and all other employees working every day to provide daily necessities. To those working directly with the "faces" of this virus, we commend you, and wish you wellness throughout.

"Opportunities to find deeper powers within ourselves come when life seems most challenging." Joseph Campbell

Stay Safe and Well,



Larry Malone

"MUSTANG NATION"