

Dear Tenino Families,

I hope you are faring well during this time of closures and stay at home orders. During these crazy times I would like to encourage everyone to stay connected with family, friends and your Tenino community (while observing the social distance rules). Our connections to others should help weather theses times.

This communication is to update you on what is happening from the school district perspective. I know the letter is long, but I hope the information is useful.

We continue to hope and plan for the restart of school on Monday April 27, 2020. Even as we plan to reopen the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has tasked us with planning for an extended closure. Let's hope we can reopen on April 27th.

As the situation changes the district will provide regular updates to the staff, students, parents and community via Skyward email, our websites, and social media.

Please reach out to the District or schools if you need any type of support during this time. If we are unable to directly support your need, we will work to find another way to help.

Thank you for your assistance and patience as we work together as a community to return to some measure of normalcy.

Regards,

Joe Belmonte, Superintendent
Tenino School District

UPDATES

Plans for continued learning

We know there are many questions about how schooling might continue during the school closure. Many of our teachers and principals have reached out to students and families already. Beginning next week, you should expect a more regular contact from your student's teachers. Please note the following:

- Teachers are required to connect with your student/family each week to provide additional learning opportunities and/or enrichment activities. Teachers may provide feedback on these activities, but students will not be given a formal grade.
- Some clever students have shared with parents that it is illegal for the school to provide work for students during the closure. To that I say, 'Nice try!' I assure you this is not illegal; as parents you can make any work provided mandatory.
- If your student had missing or incomplete work due before the closure, they are permitted and encouraged to make up their assignments for a grade.

- There are still some unanswered questions regarding high school credits and the status of graduating seniors. Expect someone from the high school to reach out to you to discuss the specifics of your student's classes.
- Will there be graduation this year? The district is committed to doing something for our graduating seniors. What that will be is uncertain given all the restrictions around group gatherings. Stay tuned.
- If you need support or materials for your student or if you do not hear from your student's teacher(s) by next week, please reach out to teachers via email or to the school principal. The principal contact information is below:
 - Brock Williams, Parkside Elementary williamsb@tenino.k12.wa.us 360-264-3800.
 - Charly Harrington, Tenino Elementary harringtonc@tenino.k12.wa.us 360-264-3711.
 - John Neal, Tenino Middle School nealj@tenino.k12.wa.us 360-264-2611.
 - Teresa Jackson, Tenino Middle School jacksont@tenino.k12.wa.us 360-264-3612.
 - Lisa Perreira, Tenino High perreiral@tenino.k12.wa.us 360-264-3511
 - Rand Hodgson, Tenino High hodgsonr@tenino.k12.wa.us 360-264-3512

Free breakfast and lunch are available

Grab-and-Go bagged lunches and breakfasts will be available for pickup during the closure. The meal distribution will occur Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. look for the Tenino School District van at the following locations:

- *Tenino Middle School parking lot*
- *The Bucoda Community Center*
- *Fire Station 43 @ Violet Prairie (17134 Old Hwy 99 SE)*

If your student(s) need meals and you are unable to pick up a meal from the grab-and-go sites, please contact Cori Leach at leachc@tenino.k12.wa.us or at 360-264-3410. We will find a way to provide you the needed meals.

All meals are free. Children and youth will not be asked for their name, identification, enrollment status. Parents or guardians must have a student with them to pick up the meals or students may pick up meals on their own.

To minimize the spread of COVID-19 meals will be available for pickup with limited interaction with other students and our Food Services staff. Schools will have the capacity to hand meals to students in cars, and to students who walk up in person.

The district is coordinating with the Thurston County Food Bank and Homeless Backpacks to continue the Friday backpack meal program (a bag of shelf-stable food designed to feed students over the weekend). Those meals will be available to students when they pick up their last meal of the week.

Finally, the **Tenino Food Bank** is available to serve anyone in need. They are located at 224 Sussex Ave. E. They will provide food for anyone in need during the following times:

- **Tuesdays** 9-11 at the food bank and 1-3 at the Bucoda Community Center
- **Thursdays** they distribute food from 11-1 at the Bucoda Community Center and 4-6 at the food bank

Childcare

We are coordinating with our current childcare partner the Boys and Girls Club of Thurston County(BGCTC). Childcare is available through the BGCTC centers in Rochester and Tumwater. If you need childcare, **please contact the BGCTC at 360-956-0755.**

Please note childcare priority given to people whose profession is considered essential. Examples are health care workers, first responders, grocery workers etc.

Stay safe and well.