



LENNOX SCHOOL DISTRICT 41-4

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EVERY SCHOOL. EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY.

4/29/2020

To: Lennox School District Families

From: Chad Conaway, Superintendent

Re: Updates

Lennox School District Families,

I hope this message finds each of you healthy and well. Following the Governor’s introduction of a plan to reopen yesterday, I want to take this opportunity to discuss what this means for our school district. The following is a link to South Dakota’s Back to Normal Plan:

https://covid.sd.gov/docs/COVID_SDPlan_BackToNormal.pdf

The plan highlights three key points for schools:

1. Continue remote learning
2. Consider a limited return to in-person instruction to “check in” before school year ends
3. Encourage good hygiene and sanitation practices, especially in high-traffic areas

As suggested under item one of the Governor’s plan concerning schools, we will finish the school year under our current distance learning efforts. We do not have any plans to conduct any in-person instructional opportunities at this time. However, the introduction of item two, noted above, allows us the ability to start new conversations concerning summer programs. Item three discusses good hygiene and increased sanitation practices that will be with us well into the start of next school year.

What we know today:

2019-2020 School Calendar

- The school board approved May 06, 2020 as the last day for senior students. May 20, 2020 is the last day for all students. Building principals will continue to communicate procedures for distance learning and student checkout procedures as we approach May 20. There were two snow days and three instructional days that we were closed as a result of COVID-19 where no learning expectations were set. We are not making these days up. Below is a table representing the instructional hours we will complete by May 20 in comparison to the minimum instructional hours required by state statute.

	Kind.	1-4	5-6	7-8	9-12
In-person Instructional Hours Prior to Distance Learning	821.33	821.33	832	832	802.04
Total Instructional Hours with Distance Learning	1084.47	1084.47	1098.5	1098.5	1059.13
Minimum Instructional Hours Required by Statute	437.5	875	962.5	962.5	962.5

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Although our total instructional hours will exceed the minimum hours required, we will continue distance learning through May 20 to limit learning regression during the summer months.

Attendance, Grading, and Awarding High School Credit

- The school board approved a resolution to address procedures for attendance, grading, and awarding credit. The contents of this document can be found at the end of this message.

Alternative Graduation Dates

- The school board approved the following alternative graduation dates for a traditional ceremony once social distancing requirements allow us to do so. Those wishing to attend the ceremony should keep these dates open. Our goal is to complete the ceremony as soon as we can to ensure we retain access to as many seniors as possible.
 - June 6, 2020
 - June 27, 2020
 - July 11, 2020
 - August 1, 2020

We completed steps for delivering a virtual ceremony on May 9. Information on how and when this can viewed will be forthcoming.

Sack Lunch and Breakfast Program

- We will continue with our sack lunch and breakfast program through May 20. Locations for pickup will remain the same between the hours of 11 AM and 12 PM. This program is open to all K-12 Lennox School District students and is provided at no cost. Pickup locations are as follows:
 - Lennox Elementary
 - Worthing Elementary
 - Chancellor Reformed Parking Lot
 - The Corner of W. 26th Street and S. Katie Ave. in Sioux Falls

Discussion for the future:

As previously noted, the Governor's release of a plan to reopen South Dakota yesterday allows us to begin focusing our attention to new discussions regarding summer programs such as Totally Kids, summer school, Ready to Start, and summer camps to name a few. Once we have had the opportunity to vet appropriate and safe steps for potentially opening these programs this summer, we will release specific details to you. For the time being, please continue to focus your efforts on distance learning as directed by your student's teacher and principal. I know these have been extremely difficult and stressful times for families in many ways. Please continue to do the best you can with distance learning and know that we are willing to practice a great deal of flexibility to accommodate each family's unique circumstance.

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JUST A REMINDER TO CONTINUE WITH THE PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS BELOW:

- Frequent and thorough hand washing for at least 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or cough/sneeze into your elbow.
- **Stay home when you are sick.**

Thank you for doing your part in keeping everyone healthy!

Dr. Chad Conaway, Superintendent
Lennox School District

April 27, 2020

Resolution in Response to School Closure for COVID 19 during the 2019-2020 Academic School Year

Under this resolution, the Lennox School Board approves the following procedures to address attendance, grading, and awarding credit during 4th quarter of the 2019-2020 academic school year.

Attendance

The South Dakota Department of Education is requiring schools who implement flex learning to monitor attendance during the school closure. Given the dynamics of flex learning, extreme flexibility is needed to account for each family's unique situation to assist in their child's learning. As such, students will be marked as present for each day of flex learning as long as they are completing assignments required by their teacher. Students who are not completing work as assigned will be contacted by their teacher and/or building principal to determine the reason for non-compliance. As a result of this conversation, the building principal will determine the appropriate attendance marking and record it in the Infinite Campus system.

Grading

Fourth quarter grades will be recorded at each grade level as follows:

Grades K-3

Standards Based Report Cards with the following designations, 1 = not meeting standard; 2 = progressing toward standard; and 3 = mastered standard.

Grades 4-6

The following designations will be used to report progress, S = Satisfactory and N = Needs Improvement.

Junior High

The following designations and procedures will be applied:

1. Flexible timelines to complete work.
2. Letter Grades will be awarded in congruence with the student handbook.
 - a. Exception – A grade of “P” for Passing will be used in place of an “F” The purpose of this is to take into account connectivity and equity issues students may have encountered during distance learning. It is also an indicator to teachers, parents, and students that they may have a learning gap due to limited participation without the penalization that an “F” insinuates.

High School

The following designations and procedures will be applied:

1. Flexible timelines to complete work.
2. Letter Grades will be awarded in congruence with the student handbook.

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Awarding Credit

The South Dakota Department of Education has provided the following guidance on awarding credit during the school closure as a result of COVID-19: *Whether a student has met sufficient time in any given course-mastered standards is a local decision. Diplomas are awarded at the district level, and it is up to each school district to set the requirements for course time and diplomas, within the parameters set out by the state in instructional hours and graduation requirements (Unit of Credit Links: ARSD 24:43:01:01 (53), Waivers: Unit of Credit; Graduation Requirements Link: 2018 High School Graduation Requirements).*

High school credit will be awarded in congruence with the grade earned for each registered class. Flex or distance learning has been approved to replace face-to-face instruction during the 4th quarter. Teachers have been called to practice professional judgment while making every effort to ensure students complete required work under their distance learning plans.

Students who have not successfully completed required work to earn credit by May 22 will be offered the opportunity to register for the class via Edgenuity. The standards not met in their traditional class will be assigned by the principal for completion in Edgenuity. Upon successful completion, the student will be awarded credit in congruence with the earned grade.