

March 16, 2020

Dear Freedom Area School District Families,

As we continue to navigate through these challenging times for our community and state, I want to update you regarding our upcoming school closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please be reminded that beginning Tuesday, March 17, the Freedom Area School District will be closed until further notice. This includes before and after school athletics and all school clubs, activities, and events.

Plans are in place to provide online learning opportunities at home for students during the school closure, following the schedule below:

- March 16 (Today) - School in Session - regular school day with before/after school programming
- March 17 - No School for Students; Staff Preparation Day
- March 18 - No School for Students & Staff
- March 19 - April 6 - Online Learning Days for Students
- April 7-9 – To Be Determined at a Later Date Based on State/National Directive
- April 10 – April 13 - FASD Closed - Spring Break

Medications and Health Related Items

If your student receives daily or as needed medication at school or if your student keeps other health-related items at school (such as for tube feeding, catheterization, diabetes, etc.) and you will need them during the school closure, please stop at your child's school office by the end of the week. Offices will be open from 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM. We are unable to send medication home with students.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FASD – Distance Learning Program Overview

As we begin this unprecedented journey together, there are a few things that must be stated up front:

- 1. Alternative Instruction** - We will do our best to provide the following alternative learning opportunities for all of our students:

4K-2nd Grade

A Learning Packet will be sent home with all 4K-2nd Grade students today. You will also receive information on how to access Seesaw and/or Class Dojo for online opportunities. 4K students will only receive paper learning packets.

If your 4K-2nd Grade student was unable to attend school today, please make arrangements to stop at your child's school by the end of the week to pick up your child's learning materials/packet.

Grades 3-12 Online Learning Plan

Students in Grades 3-12 will have their curriculum delivered online via Google Classroom. Students will bring home their textbooks and any resource materials that they may need while working at home.

Educator Availability During School Closure

FASD educators will be available via email on Distance Learning Days, Monday-Friday, to support student learning and answer parent/guardian questions at the following times: **9:00 - 11:30 AM and 1:30 - 3:00 PM**. Educator email addresses are available on each building's website.

2. **Patience** -Please understand that teaching staff is going through this learning process for the first time just as most students and parents are experiencing this for the first time. Patience will be needed from all parties.
3. **GREATEST UNKNOWN**S: As with any new initiative, there are several things that none of us know the answers to until it happens. These are some of the unknowns:
 - A. As each parents' residence has their own unique internet access, we do not know how the private service will hold up (band width issues?) as most schools in the state will try online learning through many of the same providers we use in different areas of our school district.
 - B. While we will try to do our best to limit assignments that use a large amount of bandwidth (ie: videos, etc.), we do not know how families with satellite internet will be impacted by our online learning opportunities, we do realize that many of the FASD parents only have access to satellite internet services due to our rural environment.
4. **Issues/Help Desk** – As with any new initiative, we expect issues. For this reason, the FASD will have a technology **Help Desk** set up so that parents and students can contact district staff if they have any technology problems as we move forward. For any technology related issues, please contact the FASD Technology Help Desk: email: ithelpdesk@freedomschools.k12.wi.us or phone: **(920) 716-7559 or (920) 418-2813** during normal school hours (M-F 9:00-11:30 AM & 1:30 PM--3:00 PM).
5. **We Understand** – In the case that the COVID-19 Pandemic expands, and our community is under great duress, we understand that school and/or class lessons will not be a high priority. If this were to occur to your family, please know that your healthcare and the safety of your family should be your number one concern. Please remember that we are simply offering these alternate learning opportunities for your child(ren), and if real life experiences (ie: illness, both parents work and cannot get to class lessons each night, daycare/babysitter does not have computer access, etc.) make it difficult to complete all the work, please know we understand. Your child will not be penalized for this. We are all in this together.

Google Classroom Access - Choose the link that says Google Classroom (classroom.google.com) and use your school email account to access your classes.

Seesaw Access/Class Dojo Access – **K-2 Parents will receive instructions if you have not already signed up or joined earlier this year.**

****Online Learning Opportunities will begin to be pushed out to students beginning on Thursday, March 19, 2020.**

Speaking to Your Student About COVID-19

We know that you may be concerned and worried about this public health emergency. We've provided some resources below about how to speak to your child:

[Talking to Children About COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\): A Parent Resource](#)

from the National Association of School Psychologists (also available in Spanish)

[Talking With Children: Tips For Caregivers, Parents, and Teachers During Infectious Disease Outbreaks](#)

from the National Association of School Psychologists

As we all prepare for the unprecedented events of the next few weeks, we want you to know that we will continue to provide further information to each of our families as pertinent information becomes available. Please stay safe.

Respectfully,

Kevin Kilstofte – FASD District Administrator