

March 30, 2020

Dear Members of the Lynx Family & Community,

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones doing well during this challenging time.

Over the past week since spring break, the Webster City Community Schools administrative team has met via Zoom multiple times to plan for learning and emotional support for our students and determine how we can best keep our staff engaged and informed.

If you follow the media coverage, you know that plans and expectations change daily, if not hourly. Sometimes, new guidance we receive is much different from what we heard just the day before. To that end, we ask that you check the district website (www.webster-city.k12.ia.us) often for updates. We have links to learning activities for our students, along with information on lunch distribution and ACT testing. I strongly encourage you to reach out to your child's principal by email if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions.

UPDATE ON MTCC CLOSURE

Over the weekend, a staff member at Mighty Trojan Childcare (MTCC) sought medical care and testing for a fever and sore throat. The doctor believes the staff member may have gotten hand, foot, and mouth at MTCC this past week. However, the test results are still pending.

Out of an abundance of caution, we are asking all daycare workers to self-isolate until we know the testing results. For that reason, we will be temporarily closing MTCC and will update our families as soon as we have additional information, including the timeline of this temporary shutdown. We wanted you to be aware of this situation as soon as possible to ensure you had time to make alternate daycare arrangements.

Our Mighty Trojan Childcare staff have done a great job, helping to ensure essential workers (healthcare workers, firefighters, police, etc.) have access to childcare. We appreciate their efforts as essential workers. We hope to re-open MTCC soon. Those families who can work from home are strongly advised to do so to keep daycare enrollment to a minimum, thereby reducing the potential spread of illness.

STAYING IN TOUCH

In our efforts to reduce the likelihood of a COVID-19 contamination, we no longer have office staff reporting to our buildings. All building phones are being transferred to the Administration Building, where two staff members are on duty Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. However, the office itself is closed. If you wish to contact your child's principal or teacher, email is the best method to do so.

LUNCH FOR KIDS

A big shout out to the Food Service Team, which has served more than 2,500 lunches to our students this past week. If you haven't heard, they serve grab and go lunches to all students 18 years and under, Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to noon. As of March 30, lunch service will be limited to the middle school front entrance. We hope to resume service at NE Hamilton soon. This service will continue while schools remain closed.

BACKPACK PROGRAM CONTINUES

If your child is enrolled in the Backpack Program, please note that organizers have established an emergency distribution site at the Webster City HyVee to continue distributing food to families. Pick-up will take place Wednesday, April 1, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., a time selected to optimize availability during parents' typical work lunch hours.

Children do not need to be present and parents may send a friend or family member to pick up backpacks on their behalf. Volunteers onsite will ask for the first name and grade of the child.

ELEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONAL OPPORTUNITY

PK-4 instructional resources will be handed out again on Thursday, April 2, at the following times/locations:

- 11 a.m.-noon at lunch distribution at the middle school front entrance
- 5-6 p.m. at Pleasant View, Sunset Heights, and NE Hamilton.

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

At this time, please see the District website for links to instructional resources for middle and high school students. Check back often, as these links are changing as teachers add new resources.

ICCC CLASSES

WCHS students who are currently enrolled in Iowa Central classes will be contacted by their instructor about moving to an online format. If you have not heard from your instructor, please contact him/her immediately.

PROM

The current date for Prom is April 18. However, high school administration is in contact with prom organizers. Please watch the District website for updates.

GRADUATION

At this time, there are no changes in plans for graduation. Again, please watch the District website for updates.

TELEHEALTH

YSS has shared information about telehealth, which I have attached. Please share with anyone you know who might benefit. If you have questions specific to COVID-19, you can call the state hotline at 211.

In addition to covering your cough with your arm, thoroughly washing your hands often, and social distancing, here are a few other ways to consider taking care of yourself and your family:

- Reach out to friends, family, and colleagues using FaceTime, Zoom, Google Hangouts, or Meet to see a smiling face and maintain social connections to avoid feelings of isolation.
- Keep a routine—or start a new one! This is especially important for children to help maintain a sense of calm and security.
- Practice gratitude. There's always a bright spot in a situation if you look for it!

This is a challenging time for everyone, but we are all in this together. Each of us has different challenges as it relates to COVID, the school shutdown, and managing family responsibilities while maintaining social distancing.

On behalf of the entire Webster City Community Schools staff and administration, please know how much the entire staff misses our students. They are in our thoughts every day.

Sincerely,
Dr. Mandy Ross, Superintendent