

# MONTE ALTO ISD



March 17, 2020

Dear staff,

As you enjoy the well-deserved rest and relaxation that the Spring Break affords us, I want to inform you of a decision in connection with the growing concern of the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID 19). When the 2019-2020 school year began, we could not have foreseen the challenges that a global pandemic and the unrest that has accompanied this virus would bring. While school systems play a vital role in the education of our students, schools also play a significant role in slowing the spread of a virus or disease.

After careful consideration of the information provided during daily briefings by Commissioner Morath at TEA and Hidalgo County officials, Monte Alto ISD will be extending Spring Break for students for an additional week. While students remain at home next week, staff members instructional services for all students should there be a need to extend beyond next week.

Planning for the continuity of instruction will require a hybrid approach that consists of high tech instructional delivery methods to include software platforms, Google/Apple Classroom, and internet-based resources as well as a low-tech instructional approach consisting of instructional packets. This will ensure that we are reaching students who have home internet access as well as those that do not have access to these services. Although preparation should focus on the learning objectives for the next two weeks, we should work with the knowledge that Monte Alto ISD may have to sustain remote learning and monitoring of student progress for an extended period.

As of this morning, there are no confirmed cases of COVID 19 in our District or in Cameron, Willacy or Hidalgo County. Still, this is a fluid situation and any new developments in our region will likely cause us to take other measures to keep students and staff safe. We will hold a planning meeting with our campus principals this afternoon and we will provide additional guidance next week.

We will continue to keep you informed of any developments or changes in course of action as you enjoy Spring Break 2020. Thank you for the work you do and for choosing to serve in Monte Alto.

Respectfully,  
Dr. Rosie Cobarrubias  
Superintendent

# MONTE ALTO ISD



March 17, 2020

Dear Monte Alto ISD Parents,

Providing a safe learning environment that safeguards the health and well-being of our students and employees is a top priority for the District. We sincerely appreciate the support you have shown while we work to ensure we are making the best decisions for the children of Monte Alto ISD.

We continue to monitor updates for COVID-19, including guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local, state and federal officials. Based on this information, we will continue to take all necessary precautions to help protect our Monte Alto ISD community. Although there are currently **NO** confirmed cases of anyone contracting the virus in Hidalgo County, the district has determined the best course of action is to activate Level 2 of our response plan.

To this end, Monte Alto ISD will extend Spring Break for students for an additional week. The extended closure will occur March 23rd - 27th. This extended closure is for **students only**. Faculty and staff will receive further communication regarding their return to work from administration.

This is a rapidly changing situation and we are receiving continuous updates from health authorities. At this time, additional school closures after March 27th have not been decided. We will inform parents if, and when these decisions are made. In the coming days, we will share more information regarding student meal offerings and instructional support. Please continue to access our website or Facebook page for the most accurate and up-to-date information regarding our response to COVID-19.

During this extended closure we encourage staff, students, and their families to exercise social/physical distancing to keep your families safe. We encourage everyone to use their best judgment while taking the health and safety of others into consideration.

We ask that you remain proactive in protecting yourself and your children using these steps from the Center for Disease Control:

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.
- Practice social distancing.

These are challenging times for everyone and we want to thank you for your understanding and patience as we work together to keep our community healthy and safe.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Rosie Cobarrubias, Superintendent

# MONTE ALTO ISD



Estimados Padres del Distrito escolar de Monte Alto,

Proporcionar un ambiente de aprendizaje seguro que salvaguarde la salud y el bienestar de nuestros estudiantes y empleados es una prioridad para nuestro Distrito. Agradecemos sinceramente el apoyo que han demostrado mientras trabajamos para asegurarnos de que estamos tomando las mejores decisiones para los estudiantes del distrito escolar de Monte Alto.

Continuamos monitoreando las actualizaciones de COVID-19, incluyendo la orientación del Centro para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC) y funcionarios locales, estatales y federales. Basándonos en esta información, continuaremos tomando todas las precauciones necesarias para ayudar a proteger a nuestra comunidad de Monte Alto. Aunque actualmente NO hay casos confirmados de cualquier persona con el virus en el condado de Hidalgo, el distrito ha determinado que el mejor curso de acción es activar el Nivel 2 de nuestro plan de respuesta.

Con este fin, el Distrito escolar de Monte Alto extenderá las vacaciones de primavera para los estudiantes por una semana adicional. El cierre extendido tendrá lugar del 23 al 27 de marzo. Este cierre extendido es solo para estudiantes. Los profesores y el personal recibirán más comunicaciones sobre su regreso al trabajo por la administración de la escuela.

Esta es una situación que cambia rápidamente y estamos recibiendo actualizaciones continuas de las autoridades sanitarias. En este momento, no se han decidido cierres de escuelas adicionales después del 27 de marzo. Informaremos a los padres si, y cuando se toman estas decisiones. En los próximos días, compartiremos más información sobre las ofertas de comidas para estudiantes y el apoyo instructivo. Por favor, continúe accediendo a nuestro sitio web y Facebook para obtener la información más precisa y actualizada sobre nuestra respuesta a COVID-19.

Durante este cierre prolongado, alentamos al personal, a los estudiantes y a sus familias a ejercer el distanciamiento social/físico para mantener a sus familias seguras. Animamos a todos a utilizar su mejor criterio mientras toman en consideración la salud y la seguridad de los demás.

Le pedimos que siga siendo proactivo en la protección de usted y de sus hijos utilizando estos pasos del Centro para el Control de Enfermedades:

- Lávese las manos a menudo con agua y jabón durante al menos 20 segundos, especialmente después de haber estado en un lugar público, o después de sonarse la nariz, toser o estornudar.
- Si el agua y el jabón no están disponibles fácilmente, utilice un desinfectante de manos que contenga al menos 60% de alcohol. Cubre todas las superficies de tus manos y frótelas hasta que se sientan secas.
- Evite tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca con las manos sin lavar.
- Practicar el distanciamiento social.

Estos son momentos difíciles para todos y queremos agradecerle por su comprensión y paciencia mientras trabajamos juntos para mantener a nuestra comunidad sana y segura.

Atentamente,  
Dra. Rosie Cobarrubias, Superintendente