

Tift County Public Schools

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Good evening,

I hope everyone is healthy and doing their part to practice social distancing. I know this last week has been an adjustment for us all, and I want to start by thanking our entire community for their patience while we work to implement our digital learning plan. I know there will be a lot of kinks to work out over the course of this national emergency, but we are dedicated to working through them all.

Our number one goal over the last week has been to make contact with each and every student. We want everyone to know that we are still here to help and support our community as we continue to deliver the best education possible.

Starting Monday the 23rd, all students will begin to receive new classwork. Many have already been issued online assignments through the use of google classroom. To be clear, we are still requiring students to turn in classwork and be assessed for knowledge in order to be promoted to another grade or to receive credit for a high school class. We will not be moving students from one grade to the next without evaluating their readiness. That requires work samples. It's important to me that we love our students enough to ensure they are ready for the next level before they move forward.

All that being said, I am encouraging administrators and teachers to be very patient with students through this process. We do not need to overwhelm students or parents with an excessive workload that can't be accomplished. We need to move slowly and communicate with each other in an effort to be productive. Teachers have been instructed to assign work in a way that will allow them to determine whether a student has the skills and knowledge to move forward.

I can't emphasize enough the need for us all to remain calm and work with each other to find solutions to whatever problems may come. It is critical that everyone continues to be patient and check your email throughout the day for updated information. If you are not receiving work from your teacher or teachers, please reach out to the principal of your building and let them know.

If you are having issues with your chromebook, please call our Technology support line at 229-387-2404. We have people dedicated to address the issues that most certainly will arise throughout this event.

Ms. Hayes and the school nutrition staff will continue to provide meals on the same schedule as last week. Please remember to practice social-distancing at these sites and to avoid them if you are running a fever or showing other signs of illness. You can also drive through any of the school feeding sites regardless of which school you attend.

We have placed our staff directory on our Tift County Schools website under the Covid 19 link so you can contact staff members as needed. Please reach out to your teachers with any questions you may have.

At this time, we are still shut down through March 31st by order of Governor Kemp. I do anticipate this time frame being extended based on the current status of our State and Country, but that extension has not been communicated as of today. I will certainly share all new information as soon as I receive it. One way or another, I will be giving more guidance in regards to our timeline next week. As I said before, please continue to check your email and monitor our social media for accurate details. We are pushing out information in a variety of ways in an effort to reach as many people as possible.

In closing, I would request that we keep all emergency and medical personnel in our thoughts. While I am fearful that we've only just begun to see the impact of Covid-19, I rejoice in the fact that we live in a community that cares for one another. Take care of yourselves, look out for your neighbors, and remember that we are all in this together. 4th

Good Night,

Adam Hathaway
Superintendent