



RUTHERFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT
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Thursday, March 26, 2020

An Update On the Extended Closure Of North Carolina Public Schools

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Families:

During an emergency management briefing earlier this week, Governor Roy Cooper announced through Executive Order No. 120 that North Carolina's public schools will remain closed for students until **at least Friday, May 15, 2020**. As we continue to navigate an extended school closure, I want to share several important updates that I hope you will find helpful.

Spring Break

Despite the extended school closure, Rutherford County Schools will observe spring break as previously scheduled. Our remote learning program will be recessed when the upcoming break begins on Friday, April 10, and we will resume the remote learning program on Monday, April 20. **We will continue to operate our remote food service program without interruption throughout the upcoming break**, so please consider enjoying breakfast and lunch service with us each day.

I want to commend your children for their hard work as we transitioned to remote learning, and I also want to applaud your ongoing support for their efforts and engagement. I hope every student and family across our school community enjoys the upcoming break, and I hope it provides each of you a well-deserved opportunity to rest and recharge despite the difficult public health challenges we continue to face.

Content Delivery for Remote Learning

Our teachers and instructional support team have worked hard to prepare content, activities, and resources for the next two-week remote learning cycle. That new content will be available on Monday, March 30. New instructional packets for students enrolled in grades K-2 will be available for pick-up at your child's school. New content for students enrolled in grades 3-12 will be available for direct download through Canvas. Your child's principal will contact you tomorrow to share information about specific arrangements for new content delivery at your child's school.

ALL RUTHERFORD COUNTY STUDENTS WILL GRADUATE PREPARED FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS.

iPad Availability for Students Enrolled in Grades K-2

Beginning Monday, March 30, we are pleased to provide iPads to students who are enrolled in grades K-2 upon the request of their parents or guardians. The use of iPads by students enrolled in grades K-2 is purely **optional**, and we respect that tastes and preferences for their use will vary from family to family. While these devices are not intended to replace instructional packets for remote learning, we are happy to make them available to families who choose to supplement those packets with online resources and digital applications during the extended school closure. To request an iPad, please visit our website at rcsnc.org or call your child's school before 12:00 Noon on Friday, March 27.

Site Adjustments for Remote Food Service

Since our public schools were first closed, our school nutrition team has provided 72,171 school meals to children and adolescents across Rutherford County. We intend to operate our remote food service program for the duration of the school closure. Now that we have a better sense of family participation at specific school sites across the county, we will consolidate several low-traffic sites in order to improve our efficiency. Beginning Monday, March 30, school meal pick-up will no longer be available on the campuses of **Chase High School, East Rutherford High School, and R-S Central High School**. I hope you will continue to visit us at another Rutherford County Schools campus between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM each weekday to pick up breakfast and lunch at no cost to you.

Thank you again for the encouragement and support you show your children each day, and thank you for your flexibility as we adapt our work to meet the demands of an unusual time. We are grateful for such a strong and resilient school community, and I wish each of you all the best in the coming days and weeks.

Sincerely,



David M. Sutton, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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