Dear Greyhounds,

On March 19, 2020, Governor Reeves issued another Executive Order in coordination with the State Board of Education. **All Mississippi schools will remain closed until at least April 17, 2020 as we all work to eradicate COVID-19 from our state.** While our buildings will remain closed, OSSD is still very much OPEN and will continue to provide exemplary instruction for our Greyhounds. District staff and school administrators have been working extremely hard developing instructional supports for our students during this time. During this closure we have also established certain practices/expectations that we want to make you aware of:

*Each school and central office will be closed to the public but we will have an administrator and OSSD police officer on site from 9:00-3:00 daily. If you need a specific issue addressed (transcript, records, etc) we ask that you email your child's assigned administrator and we will work together to fulfill your request as quickly as possible.

*MHSAA has also extended their suspension of all activities, practices and competitions during this time period.

*We have established a Google Voicemail for each building and department that will be checked multiple times throughout the day and messages will be forwarded to the requested staff member. Our same expectations for returning phone calls and emails will continue during this time period.

*We are establishing an Instructional Learning Plan hotline (9:00-3:00) and email that will be made available to you to assist you with certain grade level content.

*Your school principal will contact each parent (and 7-12 students) via BlackBoard Connect by Friday, March 20, 2020 with specific instructions regarding online learning.

*Parents of students in Grades K-6 will utilize I-Ready/Ready/Engage NY platform along with other supplemental resources. Our instruction will focus on ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies. This includes setting minute expectations for I-Ready, daily reading/writing time, along with other instructional tasks to keep them actively engaged in learning. Our K-6 teachers may also use their Google Classrooms to support instruction and communication. **We will use the week of March 23rd to help our teachers, parents, and students acclimate to Google Classroom and the online tools that we will use. There will be no grades taken until the week of March 30th for grades 1-6.**
*Grades 7-12* will use online instructional platforms (Edmentum / Google Classroom) to continue the learning experience for our students. These platforms have training modules for the students as they learn how to navigate them for the first time. Our plan is to have all staff and students uploaded in the platform by Friday, March 20. We plan to launch this online learning platform on March 23, 2020 and begin communicating with all students regarding the expectations for engaging in online learning. **In order for your student to receive credit this semester or nine weeks, for the classes that they are currently enrolled in, they must complete the work assigned to them by their teacher in Edmentum or Google Classroom. We will begin taking grades in this platform the week of March 23rd.**

*Parents/guardians of students with disabilities - As the district continues to provide educational opportunities to the general student population, the schools will also ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to the same opportunities, including the delivery of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). As such, a member of your child’s IEP team will contact you beginning March 23, 2020 in order to address proposed individualized adjustments that may be necessary to your child's IEP while we move to an online learning format. Any proposed changes will be temporary during the time we are utilizing online learning. We can complete this process through an amendment to the current IEP. We are preparing to provide all the necessary accommodations, modifications, and related services as determined by the IEP committee members and in keeping with current CDC recommendations. All IEP meetings will be conducted virtually and/or by email.

In the event we are not able to provide a necessary related service, your IEP team will reconvene when the schools return to the building to discuss the next steps that may be necessary.

If your student was currently in the process to determine eligibility of IDEA services a member the Department of Student Services team will contact you this week to discuss how we may continue the process and ensure that we are meeting timelines and providing the necessary services for your children.

*Parents/guardians of students in the Connections program - Your child's Connections teacher will contact you via email the week of March 23rd in order to communicate their classroom requirements and expectations.

*Also, all teachers will communicate a two-hour block of time (office hours) on Monday-Friday that they will be available to you and/or your student.

*Parents-please check your email at least twice each day for important notices. Also, please remind your children to check their email frequently as well.*
**OSSD Health Alert Webpage:**

Please continue to check our online Health portal which includes updated local information regarding COVID-19. Please check this site frequently for current information. The portal is available here [https://www.ossdms.org/apps/pages/OSSDHealthAlerts](https://www.ossdms.org/apps/pages/OSSDHealthAlerts). We have also developed a survey to report any potential travel arrangements your family may have. Please complete the survey available here [https://forms.gle/C3x1xZg9f1o1ajiQ9](https://forms.gle/C3x1xZg9f1o1ajiQ9).

With Spring Break approaching, many families have likely made plans for travel. We strongly recommend that you refrain from traveling to areas with high levels of positive COVID cases, and defer from cruise ship travel. *We ask that you heed the advice of the medical community and actively practice social distancing and sanitizing protocols. Parents, please discourage your teens from congregating in large groups and hosting/attending social events.*

The District will continue to monitor all developments in this evolving situation and will communicate via the links above, as well as through automated messaging, media announcements and social media.

Sincerely,

![Signature]

Bonita R. Coleman, PhD
Superintendent of Schools