March 3, 2020

Dear Parents,

We have been closely following the media reports and information shared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about the Coronavirus. While no cases have been suspected among our local community, please be assured that we are monitoring the situation and will stay up to date with information that becomes available.

Any decisions that may need to be made regarding a change to school operations will be done so with guidance from the CDC and local health officials, along with input from the authorities at TEA and Region 13. As a member of the Central Texas School Safety Consortium (CTSSC), we are also in contact with school districts and law enforcement agencies throughout the tri-county area. In the case of an emergency, this group is prepared to work together to provide a network of resources and support.

In the meantime, our school nurses and staff continue to work with students to promote good hygiene. We also work with Texas Facilities Commission custodial staff to ensure our school receives a thorough cleaning every day and we are ramping up our efforts to sanitize and disinfect common touch surfaces. We have been asked about face masks. The CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear face masks.

Once again, the best way to protect yourself against COVID-19 is the same measures we take to prevent the spread of everyday illnesses like the common cold or the flu:

- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds**
- **If soap and water is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer**
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands**
- **Cover your cough**
- **Cough and sneeze into a tissue then throw it away, or cough and sneeze into your upper shirt sleeve, completely covering your mouth and nose**
- **Wash your hands after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose**
- **Disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects such as toys and doorknobs**
- **Stay at home while you are sick**
- **Call and inform the Health Center of any confirmed virus diagnosis**

TSD follows the Texas Department of Health Guidelines for illness-related exclusions from school. A student will be sent home if they have a fever of 100.0 Fahrenheit or higher, or any other contagious symptoms (vomiting, diarrhea, etc.) and will need to remain home until symptom free for twenty-four (24) hours, without the use of medications.

We ask that parents help by reinforcing healthy practices at home.

Sincerely,

Claire Bugen
Superintendent

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