

March 19, 2020

Dear Otis School Community:

The Governor signed an executive order suspending in-person learning in public and private schools across the state from March 23 to April 17.

The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and subsequent measures to stop it have brought numerous changes and disruption to the lives of many people in our community, state and nation. In the days, weeks and months ahead, it is important that we are patient and understanding with each other, as we are all working to navigate new and different practices that impact how we live our lives.

Please know that we will be working to develop solid thoughtful plans concerning how we will deliver materials and instruction to our students during the required time away from the building. Administration and teaching staff will be meeting this coming week to develop the plan. This change in practice will be a new experience for everyone involved: students, parents/guardians, teachers, and administrators. Being a new experience, it will likely have challenges and require that we all work together and support one another as we support our students.

Please be aware that all school and community activities and events have been cancelled for the time being at the school; access to facilities is only for essential personnel. The school will be open, however, on Tuesday, March 24 from 4:00-5:30 to provide opportunity for students to come and get all personal belongings and all learning materials. Individuals who cannot come during this time should make arrangements for a friend or teacher to gather and deliver their belongings.

Food service is being planned to begin starting March 30th; meals will be "to go" and will be available at the pickup and drop off area at the main school entrance from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. Please call the school at 970-246-3486 and leave a message if you want your child/children to receive meals, free of charge for Otis R-3 students.

As we face the challenges created by this virus and its impact on our lives, it's important that we not miss the teachable moments for our young people. It is entirely possible that the best life lessons we teach them through all of this may be the life skills. Skills like managing change, being patient, dealing with uncertainty, being flexible, and caring for one another during times of struggle.

Lastly, we encourage everyone to continue the safe practices and healthy habits that have been recommended by our local, state, and national agencies.

Additional information will be shared as plans are put into place.

Sincerely,  
Bryce Monasmith  
Superintendent  
Otis School District R-3  
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