

SMYTH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

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March 13, 2020

Dear Smyth County Schools families,

The Smyth County School Board and the Leadership Team for Smyth County Schools have been closely monitoring the development of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) as it continues to spread across the U.S. and within the Commonwealth. We have been in close communication with the Virginia Department of Health, the Virginia Department of Education, and other school divisions to help determine possible impacts our school system could encounter.

At this time, no cases have been identified in Smyth County. However, we do feel that it is important for Smyth County Schools to develop a plan to provide continued educational services in the unlikely event there is an outbreak in our area that would necessitate Smyth County Schools to close for an extended period of time.

As we progress in preparation for an unlikely extended closure, the following actions will be implemented:

- Elementary – Teachers are preparing instructional packets for all PK-5 students. In the event that school is closed for an extended amount of time, packets will be sent home with students, which will need to be returned to school when classes resume.
- Middle/High – Teachers are currently being trained/retrained in the use of Google Classroom. Lesson Plans will be utilized by middle and high school students using this platform. All middle and high school students will be issued a Chromebook for the duration of the closure. Assignments will be downloaded to the Chromebook so that all students have access to the same materials, regardless of Internet access at students' homes.
- Community Wireless Internet Access Points – We are in the process of installing Community Wireless Internet Access Points at each school. This installation will allow families, who do not have Internet access, the ability to access the service from each school's parking lot. While the lessons for middle and high school students will be pre-loaded on the Chromebook, this service will allow access as the need arises.
- We are also exploring ways to provide meals to students in the event we have an extended shut-down. More information will be provided as our plan evolves.

While we hope our plan will never be utilized, we feel preparation is extremely important to maintain continued instruction so that students are able to continue to grow educationally.

Any decision to close school will be based on consultation and guidance from the Virginia Department of Health and/or the Virginia Department of Education.

We appreciate your understanding as we continue to develop our response to this continuing situation.

Sincerely,



Dennis Carter, Superintendent