

March 16, 2020

Dear Webster School Parents and Guardians,

By now you may have read Superintendent Drati's update letter regarding the school district's plan to temporarily close our schools as a precautionary measure to spreading the Coronavirus. (You can read his letter here: [Dr. Drati Letter to the Community 3-13-2020](#).) Below are specific actions we will be implementing at Webster:

- **Monday, March 16th**: Students will be dismissed from school.

- **Monday, March 16th**: Parents/Guardians are invited to pick up student work from the Auditorium between the hours of 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Parents may designate someone to pick up items for them if they are not able to do so themselves. There will NOT be an opportunity to pick anything up from the school after 3:00 PM on Monday. Your child's teacher should already have communicated with you about their Distance Learning Plan.
 - Please check the Lost and Found.
 - If your child has a medication at school and you wish to pick this up you may come to the office and pick it up from our Health Office Specialist. You must sign a form to check-out any medication from the school. You may not designate another adult to pick up your child's medication.

- **Tuesday, March 17th – Friday, March 20th**: School will be closed. No students are to come to Webster. The SMMUSD Board of Education will be meeting on today, to finalize the length of time our schools will be closed. You will receive communication from the school district Monday evening regarding this decision.
 - **The Webster School field and playground will be closed.** This includes after normal school hours and weekends. This will allow for the District to thoroughly cleanse and disinfect the campus.

All district teachers have been working to create Distance Learning Plans for continuity of instruction during this school closure. This plan includes a blend of digital learning through Google Classroom or some other platform and physical materials. The purpose of creating these plans is to provide a continuity of learning in most content areas while the schools are closed. Content areas include English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Art, etc. The general guidelines for the SMMUSD are as follows:

- Kindergarten – Second Grade: 10 minutes per content area, per day
- Third – Fifth Grades: 20 minutes per content area, per day
- Preschool and TK teachers have also made distance learning plans and are communicating them with their students' parents.

- If your child receives special education services your case-carrier or pathway coordinator will be contacting you to reschedule any IEPs scheduled during the closure or provide the team an alternative method to “meet”.
- All teachers will be available to answer your emails during school closure. They are eager to make every effort to stay in appropriate communication with your child during this crisis. As distance learning is new to all of us we ask for your patience and understanding.
- While our school facilities are closed, beginning Tuesday, children enrolled in any SMMUSD school or program will be able to pick up free breakfast and lunch at the following schools: Santa Monica High School, McKinley Elementary, Rogers Elementary in Santa Monica and Webster Elementary in Malibu. If you are sick, we ask that children or adults do not come to school.

Children may be feeling anxiety and fear due to the immense attention regarding the Coronavirus in the media and in our homes. There are many great resources for speaking with children about this health crisis. Below is a list of helpful resources:

- CDE: Talking with children about Coronavirus Disease 2019: Message for parents, school, staff, and others working with children: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/community/schools-childcare/talking-with-children.html>
- -Child Mind Institute: Talking to Kids About the Coronavirus (English & Spanish) - <https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>
- -National Association of School Psychologist – Talking to Children About COVID-19: A Parent Resource: [https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)
- World Health Organization: Helping children cope with stress during the 2019-nCoV outbreak: https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/helping-children-cope-with-stress-print.pdf?sfvrsn=f3a063ff_2

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt wishes for the health and safety of all of our families during this unprecedented time. I will continue to work during this time and are available to answer any questions and hear any concerns you may have. I will continue to communicate updates as they become available. Please continue to check your email and school and District social media platforms for information.

Our primary goal is to ensure your children are safe and are provided with an appropriate continuity of learning. The Webster community is strong. Please take care of each other.

Ms. Daruty