



HARRISON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Harry Burchett, Ed.D.
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March 12, 2020

Dear Students, Staff, Parents and Guardians,

I couldn't be more proud of the efforts by our stakeholders in Harrison County during this week. While Harrison County didn't desire to be the first in Kentucky to deal with the COVID-19 virus, as a community, we have stepped forward and modeled the way for this great Commonwealth.

As a district, we have spent the last few days supporting student instruction, making student and parent contacts, preparing and delivering meals for our students, and conducting deep cleaning and disinfection of our buses and schools. This deep cleaning has been at a level far in excess of normal protocols using products which are EPA approved for the COVID-19 virus.

Wednesday, March 11th, a conference call was held by Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear and Interim Commissioner of Education Kevin Brown with all state superintendents. During that call, Governor Beshear informed districts that we should be prepared to close school if given the order in a period not to exceed 72 hours. As we were already closed, Harrison County Schools' leadership began to work ahead to plan for further closure.

At this time we are announcing Harrison County Public School System will be closed beginning Monday, March 16th through Friday, March 20th. During this closure, we will utilize NTI days 6 – 10. Please understand that this communication only addresses March 16 – 20. We are making plans to be off for an extended time which may be as long as necessary in order for our state and country to effectively deal with this pandemic. Our school district already had in place, if needed, NTI lessons for days 6 – 10, and we are working on NTI lessons for days 11 - 20. NTI days 6 - 10 are on each school's respective website and can be found on the district site at

<http://www.harrison.kyschools.us>. Those students with internet can access those plans on our website, and we are arranging availability for others to get paper copies by picking up at their respective school or through the meal service currently being provided at Harrison County High and Northside Elementary. For more information regarding our student meal services or NTI instructional packets, please see our district website.

Parents and/or guardians should be prepared for future announcements which could include an extended length of school closure to extend through April 12, 2020. Please don't wait until later. Begin to plan for this closure now. These steps are being made in an abundance of precaution. Many adults and most all children have little concern of serious complications from the virus. Those individuals who may be immunocompromised or have underlying health conditions are at more risk. These mitigation measures are designed to help reduce the spread of the virus (COVID-19) and protect those at higher risk. Much like our new school safety measures are designed to provide more response time for our first responders, these measures also are designed to provide more time for our health care system to deal with this pandemic.



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Through social distancing tactics, proper sanitary measures, and isolation of exposed individuals, we can reduce the spread of the virus, flatten the infection curve, and better provide for the safety of all Harrison County citizens.

Our first and foremost priority has been the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and community. We have held true to that imperative. Our second priority has been the continuity of instructional and nutritional services. We are providing those services now, and we will be expanding on those next week. We are adding a new priority which will include student supports and access to mental health and wellness. Family Resource and Youth Services Center (FRYSC) will be providing support and supplemental supplies to students as needed. Your school counselors, social workers, district psychologists and other mental health and wellness professionals will be available to all students through our school hotline. For further information regarding the hotline, see the district website.

Moving forward as a school district and a community, we will work together to meet the needs of all our citizens in a safe and effective manner. Don't be afraid. Carry on with your daily lives, and be mindful of your sanitary habits. Wash your hands frequently for 20 seconds or longer, use hand sanitizer and maintain social distancing in the community.

I look forward to a day when all students and staff will be living, learning, and leading in their regular instructional setting in one of our great Harrison County Schools!

Most sincerely,

Dr. Harry Burchett, Superintendent
Harrison County Schools