

Highland School District: Continuous Learning

Dear Highland Families,

In an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19, Governor Inslee has made the decision to close school for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Due to this closure we certainly understand the many challenges that face our students and families. Outlined below is some information as we know it at the moment, and our plans moving forward. Please continue to check the Highland District website and Facebook page for any new information and guidance.

- Like most other industries, public education was not equipped to transform the traditional learning model into something entirely different overnight, but our schools continue to rise to the challenge: delivering meals and continuous learning opportunities for students. We will continue to offer weekly meals every Thursday from 9am-6pm at the HS/JH location.
- The state expects all school districts to provide continuous learning opportunities for their students during the on-site closure. Students will continue their learning, in some form, despite school facilities being closed. We will employ a variety of tools for doing this: Phone calls, paper packets, books, workbooks, videoconferencing, online videos, online learning platforms, or a combination. By the end of this week, April 10th, we will have offered to hand out a device to all students K-12. Each building principal has made multiple communication attempts to inform parents and students of where and when to pick up devices. We are also working on how to provide accessibility and internet access for our students. This will be an ongoing work in progress. Please contact the District office if you need more information.
- Parents, we need you to listen, and respond when needed, to all phone messages that come from the school district/principals/teachers as we are trying to collect information regarding internet access, give you information as to how to connect with your student's teacher(s), and stay updated on how the District is working to support your child(s) education. Principals and teachers are doing the best they can to meet each student's unique needs. We have a shared responsibility in this endeavor and we greatly need your assistance.
- Please remember that this continuous learning will look different than what educators, students, and parents are used to. This is an unprecedented moment in our world's history, and one of the most important things we can do for each other is grant each other grace, patience and understanding.

As a district, we are committed to whatever we can to support our students, staff, families and community. We also understand that there will be many questions to answer and continued information to share as we navigate through this challenge. Please be watching for information from principals, teachers and district personnel moving forward. We are in this together, while observing the need to be apart.

Respectfully,

Mark Anderson, Superintendent