

Zephyr Independent School District

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Covid-19 Update for Zephyr ISD

March 20, 2020

As an update to our current status we would like to post this letter and let you know what we are currently working on to keep our students connected as we navigate through this very difficult time for everyone involved. This is not anything we would have ever dreamed would happen but it is here and we are doing our best to deal with it.

I would like to thank the lunchroom and the other staff members that have assisted with providing meals during our closure. I asked them to try to have them prepared the first day of our closure and they came up Sunday night to prepare them. They have gone above and beyond to continue providing meals as we proceed. This is a service that is available for free to every child in the area from 0-18, and even students that were required to pay for lunches when school was in session are now free. We would love to provide a meal and if you want to start receiving meals through this program please contact Rhonda King at 325-739-5331 ext. 130.

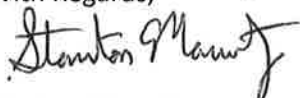
Our teachers have been working with google classroom and other technology services to transition to an online classroom for your students. It was a relief to our students and staff when the Governor took the STAAR test away for this school year, but we still want to continue our education and prepare your child for the following year. The trainings and setting up the programs has gone very well. We are hopeful that we can roll this out beginning with the week of March 30th.

We appreciate everyone that filled out the technology survey. Mr. Lowrey and Mr. Blair worked to come up with numbers to see which households needed a device or internet to continue their learning online. Our goal is to have an IPAD for students that do not have one in PK-2nd grade, and a laptop for students from 3rd-12th. We purchased 60 laptops based on the survey and ordered several hotspots to cover the students in the survey that were either without a device or internet service. We are hoping for them to be delivered next week and have them ready to roll out the following week. There will probably be some issues learning the programs and routines at first, but if this continues for an extended time it will be very beneficial to the students and teachers. There will be online videos, assignments, email communication between the student and teachers, and online conferencing capabilities if it is needed.

This Monday, March 23rd, we will be taking up the homework from the following week. At that time, we will hopefully be handing out the last packet for the week of March 23rd-27th, and transitioning to online capability the following week. All of this will depend on when we get the laptop shipment, hotspots, and if we can get them online in time to swap the packet for technology if needed on March 30th.

We appreciate your patience on the situation and the help several people have offered to help others in the community. If you know of someone that is need of something at this moment, please let us know and we will do our best if we are capable of helping. We will try to post another update to each of you on our website next week to prepare you for the following Monday. Your children are special to us and we miss them very much! I hope and pray that everyone in all families are safe at this time, especially those that are part of our Zephyr ISD family! Please be safe and take care!

With Regards,



Stanton Marwitz
Zephyr ISD Superintendent