

Dunklin R-5 School District Communication

Proposed Message: COVID 19 Family Guide

Intended Audience: Dunklin R-5 Parents

Released on: March 16, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

From: Mr. Stan Stratton, Superintendent of Schools and Dr. Clint Freeman, Deputy Superintendent

Dunklin R-5 Families,

We want to provide an update on the ever-changing situation regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19). We, at the district, are using guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to evaluate the best actions to promote safety within our district and community. We have ongoing communication with the Jefferson County Health Department, area first responders, other Jefferson County school districts, St. Louis school districts, and community members in order to be proactive and ready to respond as the situation evolves.

What guidelines should families follow regarding travel?

We know families have trips planned. Please consult <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel> before you travel for any advisories. Individuals who have traveled out of the area or who plans to travel should be mindful of their health and the health of others. We are requesting that families who have traveled to a high-risk area notify the building nurse of your travel.

What about students who rely on school for breakfast and lunch?

We will be establishing a meal distribution plan. Phone calls will be made to every family on Wednesday to establish the number of meals requested and coordination of delivery each day.

Will you offer remote learning in the event of a school closure?

While we know that every instructional minute is crucial, at this time, we cannot ensure all students will have equal access to the learning and required materials, including technology and special education services. Remote learning is not an equitable option because:

- o Dunklin R-5 School District serves a diverse community with varied access to technology. We cannot ensure all students have access to digital devices and the internet at home.*
- o Many of our families work. When schools are closed, we cannot ensure all students have an adult at home to support their learning.*

- *It is challenging to provide all students with disabilities their federally-mandated free and appropriate education via distance learning.*
- *We have not provided all of our principals and teachers the proper professional development needed to lead and execute remote learning.*

What can I do at home to keep students prepared to come back and reduce information loss?

- *READ! Reading with and to your students, as well as encouraging them to read independently, is always a good use of time.*
- *Practice skills that require repetition (math facts, sight words, handwriting, cursive writing, vocabulary practice, etc.).*
- *Utilize online resources, including programs we provide students and free online tools.*
- *Review class notes to keep material fresh.*
- *Teachers will be working on review items to make available after Wednesday March 18, 2020.*

What can we do as families to help stop the possible spread of COVID-19?

- *Stay home if you are sick.*
- *Do not gather outside of school. Social distancing only works if we actually distance ourselves.*
- *Continue to practice good hygiene, including washing hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds; avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth; cover your coughs and sneezes with a sleeve or tissue.*

Unknowns can be unsettling, but we want to reassure you we are being very proactive in our planning and will always keep the safety of students and staff at the heart of our decision-making. We appreciate all that you are doing to be prepared at home and encourage you to reach out to your building if you are in need of support or information.