

## **Matteson School District #162 School Closure Information as of March 15, 2020**

District 162 is committed to following Governor Pritzker's order to close schools from Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> through Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> while still providing opportunities for our students to learn through alternative means. More information will be provided to you and your child on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> regarding alternative learning opportunities at home during this time. We understand that you may have many questions so we have compiled a list of frequently asked questions below to, hopefully, answer most of them.

### **Q. Will there be school on Monday, March 16, 2020?**

A. Yes, the Governor's order to close schools begins Tuesday, March 17, 2020 so there will be school on Monday, March 16, 2020. However, ALL schools will end their day at 2:15 p.m. There will be no extended day at Illinois School and all after-school activities are cancelled.

### **Q. Will the District be making-up these days?**

A. The State of Illinois has declared that these days are considered "Act of God Days" which, by law, are not required to be made-up. Therefore, District 162 will not be making up these days. However, the District wants to be sure that students do not miss out on instruction during this time. Accordingly, all teachers in District 162 will be sending home instructional materials that can be done online or in paper form. Teachers will be providing those materials on Monday, March 16, 2020 for this week. Additional materials will be mailed to families later this week. Additionally, teachers will be reaching out to students throughout the day during the closure period to offer any assistance with the learning materials.

### **Q. Will BASE still be operating during the closing?**

A. The Governor's mandate is to close all school buildings to students and, as such, BASE will not be operating in District 162 schools during the mandated closure period.

### **Q. Is the district looking at changing its Spring Break Schedule?**

A. At this time the district plans to maintain its current Spring Break Schedule beginning Friday, April 10, 2020 with students returning on Monday, April 20, 2020.

### **Q. Will the district be providing meals to students during this time?**

A. The District made arrangements with its food service provider, Preferred Meal Systems, to provide a "grab and go" type breakfast and lunch to all students Monday through Friday during the statewide school closure period. Students **DO NOT** need to qualify for the Free or Reduced price meals program to receive the meals. Students may go to **ANY** District 162 school or the District Office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. through 12:00 p.m. each day to pick-up the meals and take them home. The district is not allowed to open its lunchroom facilities for the meals to be consumed on-site.

### **Q. Will the district office be open or will there be any staff at district buildings?**

A. The district office will be open each day from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. At least one administrator will also be in attendance at each of the school buildings during these hours for the duration of the mandated closing.

**Q. How will the closure impact the administration of the Spring 2020 State-mandated assessments such as the IAR and Science assessment?**

A. The Illinois State Board of Education is working to determine its next steps with regard to state mandated assessments.

**Q. I'm interested in my child attending Illinois School next year but have not yet turned in the paperwork. Will the planned school closures change the Friday, March 20, 2020 deadline for applications?**

A. Illinois School will have an administrator present from the hours of 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. each day for parents to drop off applications for Illinois School for the 2020-2021 school year. In addition, the district will honor applications received through the U.S. Mail or dropped off at the District Office.

**Q. Will the planned March 20, 2020 lottery for Illinois School be postponed?**

A. As of Friday, March 13, 2020 there are enough open slots to accept all of the applications that have been received without the need for a lottery. However, if there are a significant number of applications received this week which would cause an overcrowding at a particular grade level, the district will announce a lottery for those grade levels only and that lottery will be held at a later date to be determined.

**Q. Is the district still planning to hold IEP meetings during the closure period?**

A. District staff will be contacting families of students with scheduled IEP meetings to discuss various options for holding those meetings.

**Q. What is the district doing to prepare for the safe return of students on March 31<sup>st</sup>?**

A. The district has hired 12 additional temporary custodians who will be assigned to work alongside existing building maintenance staff to perform a comprehensive deep clean and sanitization of all District 162 schools prior to the planned reopening on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The district recently installed hand sanitizing dispensers in strategic areas throughout its schools and has a good stock of disinfectant wipes for use on shared computers between users with replacement products on order. School personnel and the nurses assigned to each building will continue to monitor absences of both students and staff and instruct students on proper hygiene techniques including handwashing, not touch faces, etc.

**Q. Will there be any school sponsored trips taking place for the remainder of the year?**

A. As previously announced, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington, D.C. as well as the Disney World trip for band students have both been cancelled. The district is working closely with the sponsoring tour companies to have refunds issued to families in an expeditious manner.

**Q. I plan on voting this Tuesday and my local polling place is at District 162 school building. Will the school still allow voting in the buildings?**

A. Based on direction from the Illinois State Board of Education and the Governor's Office the schools designated as polling places will continue to be utilized for this Tuesday's election. The District will clean and sanitize those areas prior to students returning to school.

**This is an unprecedented situation and we recognize that you may have more questions.**

**Administrators will be available at all school buildings and the district office from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to answer any other questions that you may have. As always we will update you as we learn any new information.**

Sincerely,

**Dr. Blondean Y. Davis, Superintendent**