



Message to USD 428 Families: 3.17.20

Today, March 17, 2020 Governor Laura Kelly announced all school facilities will be closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. This will place tremendous hardship on our families and staff, and impact the social and emotional well-being of our students.

We have been working on contingency plans since mid-March, including how we can meet the ongoing learning needs of our students here in Great Bend.

Our staff and board of education are also working on other critical issues, such as what this means for our seniors, how this will affect next school year, and what impact this will have on our employees. While we continue our work to answer these questions, we want to reassure the community that we will continue to feed students at all elementary locations and the Central Kitchen each weekday from 11am – 1pm. We are working closely with the Kansas Department of Education and will provide updates as soon as more information is available.

We are committed to working together as a community to support one another throughout these unprecedented times, and communication will remain a top priority. Please continue to watch for updates provide via email, as well as on GreatBendSchools.net and our Facebook page.

As a reminder, this school closure is in response to the current public health crisis. The focus should remain on preventing the spread the coronavirus, or COVID-19 as it is also referred to.

Please be mindful of the following:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing (cough/sneeze into your sleeve or a tissue).
- Please keep sick children at home.
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.

Follow additional guidance from these sources:

- [National Center for Disease Control](#) (CDC)
- [Kansas Department of Health and Environment](#) (KDHE)
- [City of Great Bend COVID Alert Center](#)

Our staff at USD 428 cares deeply about the education and safety of all students and our community. Again, thank you for your patience during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

Khris Thexton
USD 428 Superintendent