



March 13, 2020

Dear Reading Parent/Guardian:

On March 12, Governor Mike DeWine announced the closure of all schools throughout the state of Ohio for three weeks to reduce the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

Reading Community City School District will be closed from **Tuesday, March 17, 2020, through April 5, 2020, for this state-mandated closure and closed for our scheduled spring break on April 6-10.** Students are scheduled to return to school on Monday, April 13 pending guidance from the Governor.

Although our buildings will be closed to students, we will be offering remote student learning opportunities. **It is important that students come to school on Monday, March 16 to collect their Chromebooks, class materials, and guidance from their teachers.**

Closing school includes ALL school and all non-school sponsored activities. We understand the disappointment and inconvenience that these postponements and cancellations may cause to our families, students, staff, and the community. We are responding to the State of Ohio's emergency order to slow the spread of the virus by cancelling large public gatherings.

As Governor DeWine said, "We will get back to normal in Ohio. It is not going to happen overnight. We need to think about other people. Ohioans take care of each other as we move forward."

Here are the district's current plans. Please be patient as these plans are fluid and subject to change based on directives from the state and local health care providers:

- **School Events**

We have cancelled all indoor and outdoor events and field trips through April 5. As the situation continues to evolve, the district will re-evaluate field trips scheduled later and will communicate any decisions with families as soon as they are reached.

- **Athletic Events**

All spring scrimmages and practices for the district are cancelled effective Monday, March 16-April 5, 2020. Coaches will be in touch with their athletes as our athletic director receives guidance from the OHSAA.

- **Disinfecting the Building**

On Friday, March 13 and over the weekend, our cleaning crew will be disinfecting the building focusing on high-touch and high-traffic areas. Over the closure, they will be working and performing a deep clean of our hallways, classroom, and common areas.

- **Alternative Education Plans**

Our teachers will be sharing lesson plans for the upcoming closure next week. Both online Google classroom assignments and printed assignment packets for students without a device/wifi access will be made available. More detailed education plans will be emailed to parents on Monday from the building principals.

- **Food Service**

Reading families will have access to free meals for their children during the state-mandated closure. Carry out breakfast/lunch bags will be available during specific times each day at three different locations in Reading. A lunch meal for that day and a breakfast meal for the next day will be in each of these take-home bags. Given the strain this closure is putting on families, our food service department is operating this meal program similar to our summer program by providing free meals to all children ages 1-18.

Meal Pick Up Times and Locations

Schools Days (Monday-Friday)

Starting on Tuesday, March 17 through Friday, April 3

No meals will be available during spring break

Reading High School

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Drive through the circle drive to the main entrance. Parents/guardians do not need to get out of your vehicle. Staff will be distributing meal bags to walkers and drivers.

Koenig Park - Large Shelter

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Staff will distribute meal bags under the shelter. Parents/guardians will need to get out of their vehicles.

Guerbet Company

2111 East Galbraith Road (Underneath the overpass)

11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Parents/guardians do not need to get out of your vehicle. Staff will be distributing meal bags to your vehicle.

- **Kindergarten Registration**

Kim Bell will be taking limited kindergarten registration appointments during the state closure. To set up an appointment, contact her via phone at (513) 842-5100 or email at kbell@readingschools.org.

- **Open Enrollment**

We had planned to accept applications for open enrollment students beginning on April 1, 2020 and ending on May 14, 2020. We are reviewing these timelines and will post updates on our website and social media pages.

- **More Information/Resources**

We have added a page on our website where we will post district updates and links to resources from local, state, and national health departments about the Coronavirus. You can find this link under “Our District” at www.readingschools.org. We will also be sharing updates on social media ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)) and email/calls when needed.

- **State Hotline**

If you have questions about Coronavirus, the Ohio Department of Health has set up a call center. You can reach the call center 7 days per week from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.

This is new territory for the nation, state, and our schools. It is important not to panic but to work together as a school community to keep our staff, students, and families safe and healthy.

Thank you,

Chuck LaFata

Superintendent