



3.16.20

Dear Montrose County School District Families and Staff:

MCS D will be closed through April 12. We will reassess the exact return date by Friday, April 10.

Access to buildings will be limited to the situations outlined in this message. Aside from those activities, all buildings, including the district office, are included in this closure. As a reminder, when schools are closed, the after-school program is also closed. Students, staff and parents will not have any building access during the closure. Only authorized personnel will be able to access schools for important cleaning and disinfecting.

The closure allows us to do two important things; clean our buildings and help prevent the spread of disease. Please note that MCS D has zero confirmed cases of COVID-19 at this time. This closure is being made out of an abundance of caution to help prevent and/or slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community, especially to those who are most vulnerable.

This communication addresses these major questions:

1. How will we continue to provide meals for students?
2. How will parents be able to access their child’s medication that is currently at the school?
3. How will students access educational opportunities?
4. How are we planning for special events like prom, graduation and other school-sponsored events?

**1. How will we continue to provide meals for students?**

Starting on Wednesday, March 18, MCS D Food and Nutrition Services will produce bagged meals (breakfast and lunch) and will distribute from the following 4 locations:

<b>Designated Meal Pick-Up Location</b>	<b>School</b>
Centennial Middle School	Cottonwood, Johnson, Centennial
Northside Elementary School	Northside, Oak Grove, Peak Academy
Montrose High School	Early Childhood Center, Columbine, Pomona, Vista Charter, Montrose High School
Olathe Elementary School	Olathe Elementary & Olathe Middle/High

In an effort to streamline traffic flow and ensure we have adequate supplies, **SCHOOLS LISTED SHOULD PICK UP THEIR MEALS AT THESE DESIGNATED SITES.**

This service is available to all students, free of charge. To help keep the flow smooth, there will be a drive-through/walk-up set-up for meal distribution. Please refrain from entering buildings.

### **Meal service and times – to begin Wednesday 3/18/20 through Friday 4/3/20**

- 11 am to 1 pm, Monday-Friday. Meals are available for all school aged students during closure.
- We will have lunch for that day and breakfast for the following day in each bag.
- Distribution will be drive-through and meals will be handed out. No need to park or leave your car. This will help with social distancing.

### **2. How will parents be able to access their child's medication that is currently at the school?**

Parents will have the opportunity to come to buildings to collect any personal items they might want to have during the closure. Parents who need to get their student's medication must come to the building to retrieve it from staff during the hours that each school will communicate. Medication must be signed out to a parent and cannot be sent home with a student.

### **3. How will students access educational opportunities?**

One of the most challenging aspects of this school closure is considering ways in which students will continue their education while they are not in school. We understand that there are many questions about if and how academic learning will continue during this school closure.

Just as most other districts in the nation, MCSD is not prepared to implement a distance learning model, such as e-learning or online learning, on short notice. While some districts and schools may be in a position to continue teaching using online tools, not every student in Montrose & Olathe has access to a device and the internet in their home. It is important to know that if educational services are being delivered to students in any form, those services must be provided to **all** students, including those who don't have access to a technology at home. MCSD will be addressing this need in phases. This letter addresses Phase 1 (March 16-April 3).

During Phase 1: MCSD is unable to replace core instruction and special services with online learning and services due to issues of capacity, equity and access. We have provided **optional supplemental resources** and activities that are designed to provide students and parents with opportunities to extend learning beyond the classroom. These can be accessed from [www.mcscd.org](http://www.mcscd.org).

Each school will also provide one day where parents can retrieve engaging and educational kits (in paper & online). Be sure to come grab a kit for your child! Your school will communicate the exact timing of this opportunity.

During the week of March 16 through March 23, we are working to assess accessibility to WiFi in the area. We are investigating ways in which local Internet providers can extend service to homes where access is currently unavailable. Stay tuned for more updates as the situation evolves.

#### **4. How are we planning for special events like prom, graduation and other school-sponsored events?**

It is too early to make decisions about school-sponsored events that are scheduled to occur after the April 13 school closure timeline. We will make decisions about whether or not to cancel such events on a rolling basis. Expect to receive continued and ongoing communication.

What you need to remember:

1. Food Service at your designated location starts **Wednesday, March 18 from 11am-1pm DAILY (Monday-Friday). Meal service and times – to begin Wednesday 3/18/20 through Friday 4/3/20**
2. Pick up your child's medication at your school when schools communicate their availability.
3. Optional educational resources can be accessed by visiting [www.mcsd.org](http://www.mcsd.org)
4. Decisions about canceling special school-sponsored events will be made on a rolling basis.

We will continue to monitor the situation as we learn more about the COVID-19 pandemic and as we evaluate our ability to safely reopen our schools.

I am grateful to our community for its ongoing support of Montrose & Olathe Schools. While this is a time of uncertainty, I know that we will get through this together.

Sincerely,

Stephen Schiell  
Superintendent