

# Jackson City School District



Mr. Phil Howard, Superintendent

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## **Message from the Superintendent**

As most of you are probably already aware, today, the Governor issued an executive order that all K-12 schools will be shut down beginning next Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> through Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. This closure would have us returning to school for a couple of days the very next week, only to then go out on our Spring Break. We have decided to just forego those couple of days and not come back to school until after Spring Break. Therefore, the last day for students will be Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and students will not return to school until Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Our teachers will report for in-service on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

We understand that this decision can cause a hardship for many working parents in terms of arranging childcare for such an extended time on such short notice. However, we ask that you please understand that we have no choice in the matter and this is not something that is easy for us either. We are going to do the best job that we possibly can under the circumstances and given the constraints we have to deal with. Despite the fact that we have been preparing for this to happen for nearly 2 weeks, what we do will not be perfect, because this is uncharted territory for all of us. Patience on the part of everyone is going to be very important going forward. It is very important that unless your child is sick that they be in attendance tomorrow and Monday so that instructions and material may be given to them at that time. All high school students had previously been issued a Chromebook and teachers and students alike are well versed in that form of technology. Therefore, instructional delivery for students in grades 9-12 will occur via online or internet method.

A form was sent home with your K-8th grade child earlier in the week and you selected from three options the method which works best for you for your child to continue with their coursework. Instructional delivery can occur through internet technology by a Chromebook issued by the district, or with technology already in your home. Lastly, if internet is not available for you, we will send home a packet in paper form so that your child can keep up with his or her lessons.

I would encourage you and/or your child when communicating with the teacher of your child to do so through email as much as possible. Teachers will be closely monitoring their school issued email during that time and will respond to you in a timely manner about any questions you may have. If you are unable to communicate through email you may call the school and we will make sure that the teacher gets your message and reaches back out to you.

We are currently working on a plan to provide meals to our most needy students while we are not in session. We have also not made any final decision with regard to spring sports or other extra-curricular activities. As those decisions are made in the next few days, or as the situation changes, we will keep you posted by sending out robo calls, putting information on the district website and through my Twitter account.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Howard'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in the bottom right corner of the page.