

Dear Unit 5 Community,

Thank you for your extraordinary support over the past several days, as we deal with the growing coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. As you may know, to further safeguard Illinois from the spread of the virus, Governor J.B. Pritzker has declared mandatory school closures for all buildings serving pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students.

This mandatory closure takes effect Tuesday, March 17. Currently, we anticipate reopening on Tuesday, March 31. **There will be NO school those days.**

Unit 5 previously announced that Monday, March 16, will be a day of non-attendance for students. **There still will be NO school for students that day.** This is an institute day for staff to allow time for planning should e-Learning become necessary.

**Students can pick up items they may have left in the school on Monday, March 16 during the following times:**

- Elementary Schools – 2-4 pm
- Junior High School – 3-5 pm
- High School – 3-5 pm

Free lunch and breakfast will still be available to all students. Families will receive information regarding specific details of the food program in a separate correspondence.

Any IEP meetings that were scheduled for 3/17-3/20 or on 3/30 have been canceled. Special Education Case Managers will be in contact at a later date to reschedule. This is an extremely fluid situation with information from the state changing daily. Over the past few days, new guidance has been provided from the Governor and ISBE. This information changes the plans we had for the upcoming days. The closure is now considered to be Act of God Days. As such, the District's plan to begin e-Learning is no longer an option. Act of God Days do not count for attendance nor do they count as an instructional day on the school calendar. Activities completed during this time cannot be expected to be turned in or graded. The guidance from ISBE for these Act of God Days is to have Continuous Learning Opportunities. ISBE suggests students can stay engaged in their education while not physically at school through home-based activities, free online resources, and technology.

We encourage you to engage your children in other free, online educational activities. The Illinois State Board of Education has compiled a library of resources at [www.isbe.net/keeplearning](http://www.isbe.net/keeplearning) .

Comcast is offering low cost internet to families who qualify. Here is a link to information <https://www.internetessentials.com/> .

We will continue to inform you as quickly as we can about any further changes to school services. Thank you for your support, understanding, and partnership.