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# **Spirit Lake *Elementary* School**

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UPDATE 4/2/20

Families of Spirit Lake Elementary,

The first message that I would like to convey to all the families of Spirit Lake Elementary is that we are here for you. I know many parents are feeling overwhelmed and stressed during this difficult time. We understand these feelings of uncertainty, and the last thing we want to do is add to these emotions.

To help families during this time, I encourage you to treat this time away from school as a chance to connect as a family like never before. Allow students to discover their passion for learning and create memories that come naturally through play and exploration. At this age, learning happens everywhere, whether it is an activity shared by the school, or an every day family activity. Be sure to help students feel proud of the work they are doing, because their small accomplishments are seen as huge moments in the eyes of young children.

I also recommend not requiring or asking children to do work that causes more stress or negative feelings towards learning. We need to meet their social-emotional needs before we can support any academic learning. We trust and support you, as parents, to do what is best for your children.

We want to be clear. The last thing parents are expected to do is replace teachers. As a staff, we are trying our best to ensure that we offer the best guidance for families during this time, while also understanding that each family's needs may be unique. We are here for YOU!

## **Elementary Student and Family Guidelines**

1. Families will have access to all teachers (via dedicated availability hours) from 9:00 AM-10:30 AM and 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Monday-Friday. Please use the best avenue of communication to communicate with your teacher. (Email, Social Media, Zoom, etc.)
2. Teachers will provide educational opportunities for SLES students in a formal online document. Teachers will send out information on a weekly basis that gives recommendations of work that students can work on through the week. These educational opportunities are **voluntary** for students. The purpose behind this structure is to provide easier guidance for parents during this school closure. These learning opportunities will be shared through April 30.
3. Teachers will also be making connections once a week with classes via zoom. This will allow us to keep positive connections throughout this school closure. [Weekly zoom times for each individual teacher](#) (click on any of the blue words to access)
4. If needed, students in grades K-6 have the opportunity to pick up a device on Monday, April 6th for the remainder of the online learning period. Please see the technology section below for more information **if your household needs a device.**

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5. Qualified Free/Reduced student meals will continue until April 30.

## Technology Information

- If needed, students in grades K-6 have the opportunity to pick up a device on **Monday, April 6th** for the remainder of the online learning period. Device distribution is for students in K-6 who currently do not have access to technology at home that supports Google Chrome (i.e., iPad, laptop, PC, tablet, etc.) We ask if you have technology available at home, please do not pick up a device.
- Device pick up on April 6th will be from 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM. The drive up location will be on the south side of the Middle school and elementary lunchrooms. Cones will be set up for, easy, drive through access.
- Students or families needing contacts of providers offering discounted services or free WiFi locations in the area, please contact Ryan Friederich: [rfriederich@spiritlakecsd.org](mailto:rfriederich@spiritlakecsd.org).
- Please utilize this form: [Device Repair Form](#) if a school device needs to be repaired.

## Teachers and Support Staff

- All teachers & staff will continue to be paid throughout the remainder of the school closure.
- Teachers and designated support staff will hold daily (Monday - Friday) dedicated availability hours (9 AM - 10:30 AM and 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM) to assist students and parents with the educational opportunities teachers are presenting to students/families.
- Teachers will continue to support our students in ANY WAY POSSIBLE!

## Miscellaneous

- We will assist the YMCA with COMMUNITY daycare needs if applicable.
- The entire school district campus (all buildings/facilities) will remain closed to EVERYONE until further notice. Only essential personnel, as deemed by the Superintendent, will be allowed into the facilities.
- Please direct all communications/questions to: [districtoffice@spirit-lake.k12.ia.us](mailto:districtoffice@spirit-lake.k12.ia.us)
- Please continue to follow recommendations & directives from [Governor Reynolds](#), [CDC](#), [Iowa Department of Public Health](#), and [Iowa Department of Education](#).

In Education,

*Mr. Kasey Huebner*

Spirit Lake Elementary Principal

