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# Spirit Lake High School

UPDATE 4/2/2020

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Spirit Lake High School Family,

We really miss you and hope you and your loved ones are doing well! This pandemic and social distancing has reminded me how lucky I am to be your Principal. I will never again take the social interactions at school for granted! Nobody saw this coming and I'm saddened to know that some of you are missing out on life-long memories at Spirit Lake High School. We realize you are all extremely disappointed about the current extension of school closure, which cancels learning, music and sports activities, and gatherings with your friends, coaches, and teachers.

We want to be clear, the last thing parents are expected to do is replace teachers. We know you already have your personal work schedule and now have potentially added caring for and overseeing educational opportunities for your children to your already full plate. Our goal is to provide age-appropriate, high-quality resources and learning activities for your student to engage in, should that be deemed important and a priority at this time for your family. The learning is meant to support, not burden, families!

We hope the opportunities provided will meet the unique needs of your family during this difficult time. However, we also want to be clear, these learning activities are suggestions to help keep students engaged during our last weeks of scheduled school. Please review the bulleted list below to answer as many questions as we can regarding the closure of school.

## Students & Families

- Starting on Monday, April 6th, students 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. The online voluntary learning will not have direct implications on student grades. More information to come in the future regarding grades!
- Prom is cancelled.
- Scheduling for 2020-21 classes has begun for high school students.
- Graduation and senior activities WILL take place! The date and format will most likely change but we have multiple scenarios ready, pending the guidance and information that becomes available by graduation time.
- Qualified Free/Reduced student meals will continue through April 30th.
- Spring and summer sports are yet to be determined by the state associations.
- See technology information below for device repair form and other important information.

## Teachers and Support Staff

- All teachers & staff will continue to be paid throughout the remainder of the school year.
- Teachers will continue to support our students in ANY WAY POSSIBLE. Please note their dedicated availability hours listed above.
- Teachers are being asked to realign their focus by offering the best opportunities available for the remainder of this year and preparing for next year, considering the circumstances. We need to plan for this in the future.

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## Technology

- 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).
- Device turn in for all 2020 SENIORS will be the first two weeks of June, with the exact date to be announced and process to be communicated.
- Please utilize this form: [Device Repair Form](#) if a school device needs to be repaired.

## 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](#).

We know this is a lot of information and we will send additional information as necessary. SENIORS, please regularly check your email for announcements regarding end of the year events. While we know you are all extremely disappointed, we urge you to follow the guidelines set forth by the Department of Public Health and the CDC. The more we observe these guidelines and follow recommendations, the more quickly we will all be able to return to our normal lives.

As always, you can reach me through email at [corourke@spirit-lake.k12.ia.us](mailto:corourke@spirit-lake.k12.ia.us) or by phone at (319) 530-8320. Please remain safe and follow the guidelines of social distancing. The health of Dickinson County and the rest of Iowa depends on all of us!

In Education,



Mr. Casey O'Rourke  
Spirit Lake High School Principal