
Spirit Lake High School

UPDATE 4/17/2020

Spirit Lake High School Family,

We realize you are all extremely disappointed about the closure of school, which cancels learning, music and sports activities, and gatherings with your friends, coaches, and teachers. There was no way to predict the length of the closure back in March when guidance to close schools came out. The closure kicks up a lot of questions about grades, seniors graduating, online learning, and much more. This document should answer a lot of your questions. However, this remains a fluid situation; please stay tuned for future announcements.

To be clear regarding our voluntary learning, 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 continue providing 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 continues to be an avenue to support, not burden, families! These learning activities are voluntary. They are suggestions to engage students 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. The new information is posted in blue for easy reference.

Students & Families

- Voluntary Learning: Teachers will continue providing resources for students and families until May 22nd (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.
- All students will receive A's for their 2nd semester classes taken face to face in Spirit Lake classrooms. There is no way for us to prove that a student would not have received an A through reassessments, future lessons, tests, and sometimes extra credit. Students enrolled in E2020 online classes must reach 50% complete to receive a letter grade or a pass. Students enrolled in concurrent courses through ILCC (online and face to face) will receive a grade determined by ILCC and their instructors.
- Personal property from lockers will be bagged and labeled by our staff. We will communicate a plan for delivery or pick-up by Wednesday, April 22nd.
- Driver's Education will be held, **if at all possible**, with virtual classroom times and individual/paired driving times. This is all pending guidance and allowance by controlling agencies. Further communication will be forthcoming.
- Graduation and senior activities WILL take place! The date and format will most likely change. It is most likely the graduation ceremony will be outside this year, if at all possible. We are tentatively hoping for a date in June. We have multiple face-to-face scenarios ready, pending the guidance and information that becomes available by graduation time.
- Scheduling for 2020-21 classes has begun for high school students.
- Qualified Free/Reduced student meals will continue through May 22nd.
- Spring sports have been cancelled. Information regarding summer sports will be forthcoming, with an announcement by June 1st.
- See technology information below for device repair form and other important information.

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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.

Technology

- Devices will be repaired, following the same protocol as initially shared. Please utilize this form, [Device Repair Form](#), to schedule repair to a school issued device.
- 2020 SENIORS need to turn in their school issued device the first two weeks of June. The exact date and process will be communicated.
- Students or families needing contacts of providers offering discounted services or free WiFi locations in the area, please contact Ryan Friederich: rfriederich@spirittakecsd.org.

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
- 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 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