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## Important Message from Superintendent

1 message

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Reply-To: communications@ucityschools.org

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THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
UNIVERSITY CITY  
Transform the Life of Every Student Every Day!

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Dear U. City Families:

I thank you for your patience and your support in this unprecedented time in K-12 education.

Commissioner Margie Vandeven announced yesterday that Missouri has canceled statewide testing (the MAP test, end-of-course examinations, etc.) for the remainder of this school year due to school closures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, schools will not be required to make up calendar hours lost due to COVID-19, and missed calendar hours will not impact the calculation of average daily attendance, which is used to calculate state aid payments. As additional information is finalized I will be sure to update you.

Today, I am providing you with an overview of the District's plan for student distance learning through April 3 - the current time period that our school buildings are closed to students due to the COVID-19 coronavirus. Research shows that effective teachers are the most important factor contributing to student achievement. We can't replace the work our teachers do each day, but this plan will help to support our school community during the closure.

**This learning plan will start on Wednesday, March 25 and will continue through April 3.** By the end of next Tuesday, you will receive the district's comprehensive Temporary School Closure plan and more direct communication from your children's schools and teachers on their individual learning plans and how to access online learning platforms, if needed. Please understand that our current situation may change daily. We will update you as new information becomes available.

Though different from direct classroom instruction, this distance learning will be considered a required part of school and will include the active involvement of students and their teachers. We will also need your partnership to ensure your students are on track with the plan.

If your child needs to retrieve any immediate instructional items from the school building, please contact your building principal. The high school is sharing a detailed plan early next week.

Teachers will be regularly checking in with students and families to provide feedback and assistance through email, established classroom communication tools or familiar learning platforms. Staff will also be checking on whether students are logging into the required platforms.

This plan will look different for different grade levels of children because student needs and capabilities vary by age:

### Preschool:

- "Work bags" have been created for early childhood students.
- These will be delivered to the homes of all Julia Goldstein families on Wednesday, March 25.
- Teachers and staff will remain in communication through email and phone.

### Elementary School, grades K-2:

- Students will be given reading, writing, math and enrichment (art, music, PE, library) activities with the aim of keeping students on track with learning.
- Teachers will be communicating regularly with parents through their usual methods, including email.
- Families will receive further information next week directly from schools and teachers on the lesson plans.
- The District is mailing learning packets to students who were absent or did not receive them in school on Friday, March 13. Expect them by Wednesday, March 25.

### **Elementary School, grades 3-5:**

- Students will be provided reading, writing, math and enrichment (art, music, PE, library) learning activities.
- Starting the week of March 30, learning may involve some virtual instruction.
- Families will receive further information next week directly from schools and teachers on the details of the instruction.
- The District is mailing learning packets to students who were absent or did not receive them in school on Friday, March 13. Expect them by Wednesday, March 25.

### **Middle School:**

- Students will have both online and off-line learning activities in all basic subject areas with additional activities for art, P.E., music and other enrichment courses.
- The primary tools for communication between teachers and families will include Google Classroom and email.
- Teachers may provide some instruction via video conferencing. These sessions will be scheduled at regular times.
- Families will receive further information next week directly from the schools and teachers on the details of their plans.

### **High School:**

- Learning will focus on prioritized course content.
- Students will have both online and off-line learning activities.
- The primary tools for communication between teachers and families will be Google Classroom, Zoom video conferencing, and email.
- Teachers may provide some instruction via video conferencing. These sessions will be scheduled at regular times.
- Families will receive further information next week directly from the schools and teachers on the details of their plans.

### **Technology:**

- The District is prepared to issue families with students in grades 3-12 internet hotspot devices if needed. Stay tuned for more information regarding laptops for these grades.
- To register for a hotspot device, please fill out this form at: [bit.ly/ucityhotspot](http://bit.ly/ucityhotspot)
- Families can also call Charter (Spectrum) to get FREE wifi for 60 days by calling 1-844-488-8395
- Any concerns, questions or technical issues, contact Robert Dillon: [rdillon@ucityschools.org](mailto:rdillon@ucityschools.org)

### **Some final points:**

- The District is creating a centralized online hub on its website so parents can easily access the full plan, including resources, additional enrichment, technology tutorials and other important information. We hope to have the hub ready for you by early next week and will let you know when it is ready.
- Remember, the District's "Grab & Goal" meal support program for all students begins on Monday, March 23. For more details about the meal pick-up procedures, click [here](#). If you have not already, please also fill out this [brief online survey](#) to help us plan.

As I close, keep in mind this is an evolving plan that takes the District through April 3. I will work my hardest to ensure that we, as a district, communicate as quickly and clearly as possible any changes to this plan. Our staff will be as responsive as possible to your questions and concerns. If you have any questions, please contact the Communications Office at [communications@ucityschools.org](mailto:communications@ucityschools.org). Please remember to include self-care in your daily routine. I am so grateful to be working in partnership with you and your children.

In Service of Our Children,

Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, PhD, PHR  
*Superintendent of Schools*

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