



# FAIRVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT 72

7040 Laramie Avenue – Skokie, IL. 60077 – (847) 929-1050 – Fax: (847) 929-1060

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Dear Fairview Families,

Based on the rapidly developing spread of the coronavirus, COVID-19, and in order to err on the side of caution in doing everything possible to prevent the spread of the virus, Niles Township has decided that **Friday, March 13 will be the last day for students to attend school**, at least until the end of spring break, which goes through March 29.

## **Schools will be closed to students beginning March 16**

All 5th through 8th grade students should take their Chromebooks and materials home with them on Friday so they can participate in alternative learning lessons during the non-attendance period. We are also asking them to take any personal belongings home with them today. All students in grades K-8 have been spoken to by their classroom teachers in a developmentally appropriate manner about the closing of school.

The D72 administration will continue to monitor conditions in our community regarding COVID-19 to assess when it is safe for students to return to school.

We recognize how difficult it is to make a decision to close schools at this time. However, given guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that “social distancing” is the most effective way to prevent or reduce the spread of this contagious virus, we believe the most responsible action we can take for the health and safety of our students, their family members, and our faculty and staff, is to close our schools for the time being.

## **Will District 72 provide online instruction in the event of school closure?**

District 72 will provide online resources for parents who want to promote continued learning at home during this extended school closure. These will be optional resources and will not replace instruction or the need to make up days at the end of the school year, similar to school closures for inclement weather. The Fairview South staff has developed activities for students, please watch for an email from Mr. Lopatka and Mrs. Larkin with specifics by Monday, March 16.

## **Spring Break**

Spring break will be as planned, from March 21 to March 29.

## **Communication with Families**

We will continue to provide you with regular updates as this situation develops. For the latest information, please visit our website and monitor your email and phone for messages from the District.

Additionally, it is important for our students that we model measured behavior and rely on each other for support. Our students take their cues from the important adults in their lives and we can weather this challenging time together by refraining from alarmist or stress-inducing language in their presence. Please take a moment to review the following support resources:

- [Talking to Children About COVID-19](#)
- [Talking with Children During Infectious Disease Outbreaks](#)

This is an unprecedented and potentially stressful situation for our schools, families and our local and global community. We know there will be bumps in the road along the way, but together we will support our students and do what is best for them.

Thank you for your patience and your understanding as we work together with our families, our staff members and our Niles Township colleagues to support our students and do everything we can to keep them safe and secure. We are blessed to have a caring and compassionate community. Working together, we will get through this.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Cindy Whittaker  
Superintendent