

MASON CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dave Versteeg
Superintendent of Schools

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 2020

CONTACT: Sue Deike, Community Relations and Communications

Governor announces Iowa schools to close for the remainder of the school year

Gov. Kim Reynolds and the Iowa Department of Education announced today that all school districts and nonpublic schools will be closed for the remainder of the school year and will continue to offer continuous learning to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This also includes the cancellation of spring sports activities. The future of summer sports seasons will be announced June 1.

The governor and the Iowa Department of Education also announced that the state of Iowa will:

- Waive instructional time requirements for the remainder of the 2019-2020 regularly scheduled academic year for schools that continue to provide continuous learning through one of two approved options, voluntary educational enrichment opportunities, required educational services, or a combination of the two.
- Require schools to submit a Return to Learn Plan to the Iowa Department of Education by July 1 outlining ways they will address disruptions to learning as a result of COVID-19. This could include summer school, enrichment activities or other opportunities to address the needs of learners.
- Waive the requirement that schools start no earlier than Aug. 23, allowing school districts and nonpublic schools to make local decisions about the length of their 2020-2021 academic year.

The district's voluntary educational enrichment opportunities program was implemented for April 13 through April 30, 2020 and the district emergency management team and learning committee will continue to access and discuss next steps in continuous learning moving forward with the remainder of the school year. Options available are to continue the voluntary educational enrichment opportunities currently in place, move to providing required educational services, or a combination of the two. Students and parents are encouraged to continue to access the district website, masoncityschools.org, for updates and communications related to the COVID-19 Emergency School Closure.

The Emergency Food Program implemented on March 17 will continue through the closure.

The district emergency management team and various ad hoc committees will meet to discuss and then communicate decisions on the numerous topics and questions we know our families and community will have. Discussion topics and questions our team will address include, but are not limited to:

- Next steps in educational opportunities plan
- Progress reporting to students/parents

"Providing quality education for ALL in a caring and responsive environment."

- Seniors completion plan
- Prom, graduation ceremony, Academic Hall of Fame ceremony
- Collection of personal items from lockers/desks

Superintendent Dave Versteeg will be a participant in the COVID-19 Weekly Press Conference on Wednesday, April 22, 2020 and many of these topics and questions will be addressed during this conference.

For further information or questions, please contact the Office of the Superintendent, Community Relations and Communications at 641-421-4401 or email sdeike@masoncityschools.org.