



# Marion County School District Superintendent's School Closure Update MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2020

## **Closure Overview:**

Per Governor McMaster's order, the Marion County School District will be closed for students March 16- March 31. The information below is to provide families with information that will assist them in understanding the various aspects of the closure.

During the time of closure, all after school activities and sporting events are canceled until further notice and information concerning rescheduling will be released when it becomes available. Additionally, all before and after school extracurricular programs are canceled until further notice.

## **Modified Instructional Plan**

Although we cannot replace the value of a live classroom teacher that provides for direct student interaction, we know that continued instruction is important and ask that our stakeholders trust and support our educators as they adjust to a modified teaching and learning process. MCSD will provide low tech Learning Packets along with a remote learning daily schedule for all students during the closure. Packets will be available for pick up from the schools on Tuesday, March 17 from 2:00 – 4:00. During pick up there will be no entry into buildings. Packets will be available at the main entrance at each location for parents to drive through and pick-up. Parents who are not able to go to the school may pick up Learning Packets at food distribution sites within their attendance zones on Wednesday, March 18. Middle and High School packets will be available for pick-up on Wednesday from 8:00 to 10:00 AM using the same process as the elementary schools.

District and school leaders will communicate with parents through the Mass Calling System, Facebook, Twitter and the district's website. During the week of March 16 -20, 2020 all schools will operate "phone only" office hours between of 8:00 -10:00 AM for questions. Teachers will also be available through district email. Please continue to check our district and school webpages for further instructional guidance.

We do ask parents to commit to adhering to the expectations of the Learning Packet. We recognize that this is a huge undertaking and will require tremendous effort from all; however the district will be working closely with parents and will make this unique situation the best possible experience for our students. If you have any questions or concerns pertaining to an individual circumstance, we ask that you communicate that to your child's teacher/school.

## **Student Feeding Program**

It is our priority to ensure that our students continue to receive the proper nutrition during this school closure. Beginning Monday, March 16, MCSD will provide lunch at no cost to our students. We will use a drive-through PICK UP service and a bus PICK UP service.

The Marion County School District will be preparing a bag lunch for our families to pick up between 10:30 and 12:00 at the following locations:

- **Creek Bridge STEM Academy attendance area**

- Creek Bridge STEM Academy
  - Bethel AME Church
  - The Hot Spot (Gresham)
  - T-Mart

- **Mullins attendance area**

- Palmetto Middle School
  - First Friendship Church (Nichols)
  - Mt. Zion AME in Zion
  - Gapway Recreation Center
  - North Mullins Primary School

- **Marion attendance area**

- Easterling Primary School
  - Marion High School
  - Mt. Zion in Sellers
  - The Hot Spot (Pee Dee)
  - Temperance Hill Fire Department

Buses will be delivering the bagged meals to the remote locations so families can pick it up along with milk and a juice and take it home. The grab and go lunches at the school sites will be delivered at the entrance to the school. We will provide this service daily until March 31, 2020.

## **General Updates**

As we navigate through the resolution of the COVID-19 public health crisis, we realize that its impact will have long term consequences, which may affect the school calendar. No decisions have been made in regards to Spring Break. With regard to state testing schedules, South Carolina Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman is currently seeking a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education to potentially cancel the testing this spring.

MCSD will continue to protect student and staff privacy and ensure that information concerning the health of students and staff is not shared with unauthorized individuals. We ask that everyone commit to keeping information concerning the health of all students and staff confidential. Please refrain from making assumptions about our students and staff. Please help to assist us by not sharing any rumors you may hear concerning the health of any student or staff member.

During the closure our custodial and maintenance staff will be comprehensively cleaning facilities and buses districtwide to prepare for the student's return. Cleaning agents used in Marion County School District schools are EPA compliant.

Please continue to follow MCSD on Facebook and Twitter. Check the district website for any updated information.