



March 17, 2020

Dear Parents,

The Avenue City School will be closing at the end of this week. It is a regrettable but necessary measure. We will dismiss on Friday, March 20, 2020. We HOPE to resume our regular schedule on Monday, April 6, 2020. However, this is an ever-changing issue.

I suspect that, by Friday, we will be one of the few school left open in NW Missouri. You might ask, what's the difference between Wednesday and Friday? The simple answer is; time. It is my hope to give you enough time to arrange for child care, lunches, Wi-Fi hotspots, or whatever other things you need to do. Because there are no confirmed cases of Corona in our county or adjacent counties, an emergency dismissal is not warranted. Our teachers need time to prepare for this as well. Teachers will be providing daily assignments through our website and their newsletter pages. Assignments will avoid introducing new skills and will focus on review and enrichment lessons. It is our expectation that your children will complete these assignments.

Please use this time to prepare for this extended dismissal AND to also reassure your children about their security and safety. Any disruption of their routine will be a difficult time for them. This is especially true when so many of the typical activities they might be involved with are shut down. The walls of your house are going to start to close in on them and you. This brings me to my next point.

The goal of closures across the nation is to get people away from each other. Closures of airlines, businesses and schools will not kill the Coronavirus. Closures only work if the people associated with those closures stay away from other people. Without a concentrated effort to do so, these closures may actually be counterproductive in leveling the spread of the disease.

Why are we closing for a minimum of two weeks? Literature from the Center of Disease Control indicates a week long closing does very little to stop the spread of the disease. While we say we will be back to school in two weeks, that may not be the case and you need to be prepared for that possibility.

The administration will reassess the situation and reach a conclusion on the actual return date the week of April 1st. (I understand the irony of that date.) We will use our webpage, PTO Facebook page and our text/phone caster system to keep you in the loop. All questions cannot be answered in a one-page letter. Stay updated with our website. There may be forms to sign and return by Friday regarding computer check-out, etc.

Saying these are difficult times isn't saying enough. As always, we will continue to do our best for your children. I am thankful for dedicated teachers and for supportive parents. It is my prayer that we continue to deal with each other with kindness and understanding. Our world needs it at this time.

Sincerely,

Don Lawrence
Superintendent of Schools