



March 17, 2020

## School Closure - Child Care/ Meal Service Update with [Linked Meal Order Form](#)

Dear South Whidbey Families, Students, Staff, and Community,

The situation related to COVID-19 has become more serious in our state and across the country. I trust that you are following announcements and advice from [Governor Jay Inslee's office](#), which ordered restaurants and bars to temporarily close and expanded limits to social gatherings. [Island County Public Health](#) is another good resource to check for updated information.

My work is focused on maintaining the safety and well-being of all staff and students to the best of my ability. The information and guidance are changing rapidly. Please be assured that we are staying on top of the information and will be updating you as more direction becomes available. For now, here are our updates:

We are continuing to develop plans for **free "grab and go" meals** for our students to start Monday, March 23rd. If your South Whidbey School District enrolled student(s) is/are in need of a meal, **please [complete this linked form to order meals for the week of March 23-27](#)**. To assist our food service team with preparation and ordering ingredients, we must have your order for students' meals received by **10am on Friday, March 20, 2020**. If you cannot access the google form, please contact the SWSD Food Service Director, Rachael Mathews at (360)221-0617 or [rmathews@sw.wednet.edu](mailto:rmathews@sw.wednet.edu) to place your request.

Monday through Friday, the meals will be prepared at the South Whidbey High School kitchen with **curbside pick up between 11am and 1pm**. The pick up location will be in the SWHS parking lot, at the kitchen's back door. Staff will be out there to hand the "grab and go" meals to families. Please note, federal regulations require children to be present in order to receive a free meal. We recognize this may be a hardship and apologize for this inconvenience.

If you cannot pick up your student meals, please note your **child's bus stop** on the order form. We are arranging to have bus drivers deliver meals to these stops beginning at 11am. The exact stop time has yet to be finalized. However, as with pickup, children are supposed to be present in order to receive the free meal.

Our school bus delivery of “grab and go” student meals will also be working with Whidbey Island Nourishes (WIN) and the food bank to assist families in need. Please contact the [Family Resource Center](#) if you need any assistance: **360-221-6808 ext 4321**.

While we greatly appreciate offers to volunteer and help with meals, it's important we follow all health and safety protocols with our trained food services staff.

We are partnering with **South Whidbey Children's Center for Child Care for our first responder and essential health care parents**. We plan to begin providing this service on Monday, March 23rd. We will be reaching out individually to each of the parents who completed the [online survey \(linked here\)](#) and expressed the need for this service.

Based on this and the orders in place from the Governor, **we have closed our district to many operations this week**, outside of some essential services, and have asked most staff to stay home, take care of personal health, practice social distancing and maintain sanitizing. Once again, we are navigating "white water " and have no precedent for this experience. We have custodial services and maintenance scheduled back on Monday, March 23rd.

### **Primary goals**

1. *Protect life, promote safety and minimize the spread of the virus.*
2. *Provide food to the young people in our community.*
3. *Work with community partners in supporting child care options for our first responders and medical employees as noted in previous correspondence and our online survey.*
4. *Develop innovative ways to support ongoing student learning.*

We are working through the **instructional** requirements and expectations from the State to determine the learning resources we will provide to students. At this time, we have asked all of our teaching staff to be available by email for communications with parents and students. We have provided [South Whidbey School District Student enrichment opportunities to maintain connection and skills \(linked here\)](#). More will be developed and provided in the coming days.

Thank you to everyone who is doing their part in this national crisis. I have been contacted by many folks willing to support in whatever ways we may need it. At this point, we have not formally identified opportunities for volunteers, but if or when we need you, we will reach out.

I just learned this afternoon that the spouse of one of our staff members has been confirmed to have COVID-19 (tested on Saturday and confirmed today). The staff member and spouse are in quarantine. The staff member is prohibited from coming to

any of our buildings until 14 days after household symptoms subside. The staff member is not showing any symptoms at this time.

I certainly hope you are well and continuing to practice good hygiene habits and social distancing. Thank you for staying in touch and focused. Likely, as I press send another caveat or change is on the horizon. Tolerating the ambiguity is difficult and necessary.

Dr. Jo Moccia  
Superintendent