

Wheaton Area Schools
Independent School District #803

Daniel W. Posthumus
Superintendent / Elem. Principal

Phone: 320-563-8282

Pearson Elem. School
710 Fourth Avenue N.
Wheaton, MN 56296
Middle/High School
1700 Third Avenue
Wheaton, MN 56296

March 15, 2020

Dear Families,

Today, Governor Tim Walz and Education Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker announced that all Minnesota public schools will close to students starting Wednesday, March 18, 2020 with the plan to resume instruction on Monday, March 30, 2020.

During the school closure for students, Wheaton Area Schools will be joining school districts and charter schools across the state to create plans to equitably distribute distance learning to our students should we need to close schools statewide for a longer period of time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Minnesota Department of Education is defining distance learning to mean that a student receives daily interaction with their licensed teacher(s) and appropriate educational materials. Starting March 30, 2020, per the instruction from the Minnesota Department of Education, student learning will continue for the rest of the school year.

Our educators will be giving thoughtful planning to our distance learning plan, offering careful consideration for students in a variety of areas, including students receiving special education services, multilingual learners, students experiencing homelessness, and students who rely on meals served at school.

Once our distance learning plan is finalized, we will communicate the plan to families through a direct e-mail as like this one, as well as on our school webpage.

As always, our first priority is the safety and well-being of our students. We also want to ensure every child has access to the education they need and deserve.

If you choose to keep your child(ren) home on Monday and/or Tuesday this week, please contact the school office to report the reason for their absence.

We will continue to keep you informed as we navigate COVID-19.

Thank you,



Dan Posthumus
Superintendent & Elementary Principal
Wheaton Area Schools