

Email to Parents on Sunday Evening, March 15

Subject: All Ladue Schools Closed Through April 3

March 15, 2020

All St. Louis Public Schools have been advised by St. Louis County public health officials that it would be in the best interest of our larger community for us to close our schools and cancel all activities through April 3. This will include all school activities, including athletic and extracurricular practices and competitions.

The decision to close schools was extremely difficult and was made in consultation with all area Superintendents, health officials and out of an abundance of caution for our families and Ladue Schools community.

We know that some of our families rely on us to provide vital support beyond the education of their children. We are making plans for tending to these needs, as well, and will be in touch very soon to share more information about how this will take place.

Contemplating weeks without the structure of school may seem overwhelming. Please know we are doing our very best to make decisions that will help care for all of us through this time. Over the next few days, we will communicate our plans to support families in the following ways:

Providing learning support materials online and via email. Depending on grade level and subject matter, our teachers will be using a variety of resources to share information and resources with their classes, individual students and their families. We will do our best to use consistent and streamlined processes for sharing these resources so you and your child(ren) know what to expect.

While we realize we cannot replicate having students in our schools using these methods, it is our hope that it will allow some continuity until we can all be together again. At that time, we will have plans in place to “compact” curriculum so that as much material as is reasonable can be covered prior to the end of the year.

The potential for **providing childcare** to families who need to continue to work while schools are closed.

Providing meals to families who count on us to provide their children with breakfast and/or lunch during the school week.

We will be sending frequent updates with information and resources via email, text messages, the [district website](#) and social media. Please be on the watch for these early next week. We appreciate your understanding as we finalize our plans and begin to work through this new

situation together. If you have immediate questions, please look at the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section of our website.

We will continue to monitor this situation and our families should be aware that there is potential that the school closing period could be extended yet again. We are committed to communicating updates on a regular basis with our community, so please watch for those.

Finally, I will share this... In the eight months I have been your superintendent, I have learned something very important. Our teachers and families are second to none and I am completely confident in our ability to get through this challenging time together.

Dr. Jim Wipke
Superintendent