



## COLUMBIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Jason Q. Harris, Ph.D.  
Superintendent  
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March 19, 2020

Dear Wildcat Family:

Earlier today, I shared the following quote with our faculty and staff from former President Teddy Roosevelt. "Nothing in the world is worth having or worth doing unless it means effort, pain, difficulty... I have never in my life envied a human being who led an easy life." I reason it is fair to say, moving forward in our present situation is not going to be easygoing. However, I am confident in the Columbia School District's ability to overcome all obstacles.

I want to take this opportunity to share with you a fundamental outline of how CSD will operate during this time of closure. Detailed communication will follow from your students' building level principal.

Beginning Monday, March 23, Columbia School District staff will begin preparation for distance learning. The learning objectives of the district are to review prior knowledge, incorporate new concepts as necessary, and manage our curriculum to provide the best learning environment for our students while school buildings are closed. We realize this information will derive from various forms, digital, paper, video conferencing to phone calls. Our motto going forward is, "School is not a building; school is a series of instructional resources. We are still having school; it will just be at your home." We anticipate distance learning to begin on March 30.

Starting next week, you will receive communication from the district regarding computers, internet accessibility, and transportation. This information will provide direction for our administrative staff as we prepare for learning at home through April 17.

I realize numerous questions remain. We are all facing a calamity that will define our lives forever. I remain assured our administrative team has assembled a framework that will lead CSD through the COVID 19 crisis.

As mentioned earlier today, the Columbia School District will begin offering free grab and go meals to children 0-18 on Monday, March 23. Meal service will be distributed from two school locations: Columbia High School and Columbia Primary School, from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. weekdays. Drive-up and walk-up service will be available at each school site in the bus lane located next to the cafeteria.

Thank you all for your patience during these uncertain times. It is natural for us to feel anxiety and stress. Know that we are doing all we can to address these challenging times. With your support and commitment, the Columbia School District will emerge from this current crisis even stronger.

As a reminder, regular updates will be available via the web at:

Website: <https://www.columbiaschools.org/covid-19>

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Q. Harris".

Jason Q. Harris, Ph.D.  
Superintendent