



*"The best place to live, learn, and work."*  
A message from Superintendent, Mark Flatau

**Dear Families,**

It has been quite a week and I trust you and your family are hanging in there and doing the best, under the circumstances, you can. We are in this together and plan to continue supporting your kids the very best we can. Being at the end of my formal work career, I thought the Cyber Terrorism attacks we experienced three years ago would have been on the top of my most challenging situations, but the coronavirus has taken the #1 spot. Below is some important information you need to know.

### **Travel over Spring Break**

I shared this information with you last week but want to emphasize it again including new guidance the Governor issued yesterday.

[Governor's guidance on returning from foreign travel.](#)

### **Recommendations for Spring Break Travel**

As spring break approaches, be aware that travel to some areas may result in restrictions for school attendance upon return. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued travel advisories for areas experiencing the coronavirus epidemic. Right now, the CDC is recommending that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to China, Iran, South Korea, and Europe. You can check for updates at the following site: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>

Please note that:

- Any staff or student returning from a [CDC designated Level 3 location](#) will be required to stay home for 14 days after returning to the United States. *(These advisories can change on short notice, as the disease spreads. If staff or students travel to a location that is added to the list prior to the end of spring break, they will be held to the same standards.)*
- Staff or students who return and are sick with a fever or cough or who have trouble breathing should call their health-care provider before seeking medical care in order to avoid spreading the disease to others in the medical setting.

- If a person has a respiratory infection and a fever after interacting with someone who recently traveled to an impacted area, he or she should call a health-care provider as soon as possible.
- We acknowledge that postponing or canceling plans can be inconvenient and difficult, but we are asking staff and students to re-evaluate spring break plans if they intend nonessential travel.

### **Meals during Spring Break**

- KPS Central Kitchen will provide ingredients for breakfast and lunch for the next week, which is or normal spring break.
- FREE for anyone 18 and under.
- Please E-mail [grahamj@sd5.k12.mt.us](mailto:grahamj@sd5.k12.mt.us) to place an order for how many kids you need to serve, please include any special dietary restrictions.
- **Pick up** on Monday March 23, 2020 from 11am to 12:30 pm at the Central Kitchen located at 106 Northwest Lane, Kalispell, right below the Middle School, off Three Mile Drive.

### **Likelihood of the Emergency Declaration being extended.**

We believe this will be extended past our spring break, but we have already been planning so no need to worry. Our principals and teaching staff will continue to support your child's learning in a variety of ways.

### **Remote Working from home**

Please know that many of our staff have been given the approval to work remotely from home. The expectation is that staff are on duty during regular school hours supporting our students in their learning. Please continue to use email and phone calls to communicate with your child's principal and teachers.

### **Social Distancing**

Please remember to stress the importance of social distancing with your kids. A six-foot perimeter should always occur when anyone is out in the public and that should only be when necessary. Please keep your children, particularly your teenagers, from congregating out in the community. Sheltering at home continues to be the best strategy to stop the spread of this virus.

### **State testing requirements**

The federal government issued today exemptions that states can take to be able to cancel state testing this spring. Be looking for this likely announcement if schools continue to be closed. This will mean that the ACT at the HS level and Smarter Balanced Assessment in grades 3-8 will not have to be administered. Please be assured that KPS has excellent diagnostic and progress monitoring assessments that we will continue to have available to ensure students are making progress.

[District Website](#)

Our website and our school's websites will continue to provide up to date information and support for you and our students. [Click here to access our website.](#)

[The video link to this message can be viewed by clicking here.](#)

[Click here for great information about Talking to your children about Coronavirus](#)

As always, if there is anything, I can support you on please let me know. I hope you and your children can reconnect as a family. With nearly everything being cancelled I trust you can:

- Enjoy family dinners together.
- Unplug the technology and play some board games.
- Write a thank you letter to someone, hint.... your child's teacher maybe?
- Enjoy our great outdoors! Go for a walk or hike with the family. The great thing about Montana is we have the best back yard in the world.
- Remain positive. My Dad would always remind me to keep looking up and I hope you will do just that.

While we may not be able to control the events taking place around us, we can control how we react to them.

Take care and be safe,

Mark

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