

ELIZABETH KENT

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ONEIDA SCHOOL DISTRICT #351
195 S. 300 E.
MALAD, ID 83252

March 18, 2020

Re: UPDATE to School Closure

Dear Parents,

During last night's Board Meeting, it was decided our schools would close immediately. This was not an easy decision. In that, our closure was earlier than projected. There will be several things we will need to do and communicate electronically. Please carefully read the following information so you and your children may be fully informed and prepared for the educational service transition.

1. The primary reason for school closure was health, safety, and emotional concerns. Closure only shifts a greater health burden for the home. During this closure period, we strongly encourage the following:
 - a. **Limit travel:**
 1. As of the time of this release, there were no confirmed COVID 19 in our county. Please don't bring it to us. We have a large elderly population in our community who are more susceptible to the virus. When you enter Idaho's border, there is a boat check station that cleans off aquatic hitchhikers. COVID 19 cannot be cleaned off that easily. You can become a carrier through exposure with a person who may not even be aware they are a carrier. Be Wise.
 - b. We ask your children to **limit their grouping activity** in our community.
 - c. We ask you to practice **social distancing** and all other practices that have been sent out or made available to limit germ spread.
 - d. We will continue to give health updates as we receive them from the Regional Health Department.
 2. **Internet Access:**
 - a. We strongly encourage all families to follow the internet access options as defined in previous PR releases. If you need to access the ATC offers for free internet access and boosted bandwidth, please get on their service list ASAP. If school internet access is your only option, you can contact the school on March 30 from 8 AM – 10 AM to fill out the internet access form.

3. Chromebooks and personal belongings pick up:

- a. Parents/students can pick up their Chromebooks or other personal belongings at the Middle School and High School from **2 – 4 PM March 18** (today) or from **8 – 10 AM March 19**. With the Chromebook, you will be given guidance for appropriate Chromebook usage.
- b. The Elementary School will be sending more information to their parents regarding their Chromebook, packet, and supply pickup.. The pickup for the Elementary School will be March 30. Times and procedures for these pickups will be given in an email on Friday, March 27.

4. Chromebook Usage:

- a. There will be a sharp learning curve with using Chromebooks and other online tools. Teachers will be the primary contact for any hardware or software concerns. They will try to resolve the problem first – if it cannot be resolved at that level, the teacher will refer the problem to our IT department. **Please do not attempt to do any physical repairs to your Chromebook.**

5. Online schooling will begin on March 31:

- a. There will be an online access test conducted by all teachers on March 30. We are asking all students to log in and make contact with their teachers/classes on that day between times 9 AM-12 PM. This effort is to make sure we are as prepared as can be to begin online learning on March 31. You will be receiving an email from your building administrator with directions on how instruction will be accessed and delivered. Attached to this email will be guidelines for appropriate Chromebook usage. During this break of instruction, teachers will be receiving training and preparing online services, materials, and resources.

6. Child Care:

- a. While the district will not be involved with child care services, we encourage our community to use social media resources to offer and explore child care options.

Thank you for your support and patience during this difficult time and transition.

Sincerely,

Rich Moore
Superintendent
Oneida School District #351

Elizabeth Kent
Public Relations Coordinator
Oneida School District #351