

Dear Parents and Families,

As most of you already realize, the Oklahoma State Board of Education held an emergency meeting last week to discuss the effects of the COVID-19 virus on public instruction. The meeting resulted in a mandate that all public schools in Oklahoma close through April 6. This included all school-related activities and extracurricular activities. No school personnel is permitted on campus except for essential staff. Essential staff includes business, payroll, and HR in the administration office, maintenance, and staff associated with our child nutrition and meal distribution plan.

State Superintendent Joy Hoffmeister, stated that all academic plans be put on hold until April 6. The goal of the two-week closure of school is to pause and social distance from one another to help limit the virus from spreading throughout our community. Educational activities are scheduled to resume on April 6, however; I completely expect our educational plans moving forward to be in the form of online learning or hardcopy resources away from school. More information on academic plans will be made available as we get closer to the April 6 date.

Grove Public Schools will be providing daily meals free of charge for any kids ages 1-18 regardless of their free or reduced lunch status. There is no information or paperwork needed. The kids do not have to be enrolled in Grove Public Schools to participate. Children must be present in order for meals to be provided.

Distribution of meals will be through a drive-through and pick up at select mobile and stationary school sites. When you arrive, stay in your vehicle, roll down your window, receive food, and depart. For the safety of employees, please put your vehicle in park when receiving food. If a car is unavailable, there is a walk-up option. Please have kids walk up, receive food and depart. Please encourage your kids to refrain from socializing with other kids and honor social distancing. The “Grab and Go” program will begin on March 23, 2020, and will continue through the next two weeks, excluding Saturdays and Sundays.

Breakfast will be available between 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and lunch will be available between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. The meals provided each day will be available at three mobile sites and three stationary sites. The mobile sites will be served out of a Grove Public Schools school bus. The locations include the lot

across from the Cherokee Casino on US 59, Country Boys Corner Store (Zena Store) parking lot at US 59 and 127 Junction, and Grove Sports and Rec Center on 13th. The stationary sites include the Early Childhood Center side door (where drop off and pick up normally occur), the Middle School cafeteria back doors (utilize the road between MS and UE), and the High School cafeteria back entrance (between PAC and GHS front entrance). Menus will be available on our school social media sites (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) daily.

The Grove Public Schools leadership team is working diligently with top leaders in our state to stay abreast of the most recent developments. As our understanding of the COVID-19 pandemic changes rapidly, it's important for our community to remain calm and continue to practice preventative measures such as good hand hygiene, staying home when sick, avoiding large crowds and social distancing.

The health of our students and staff continues to be our number one priority. If you believe you have been exposed to the coronavirus or have symptoms, immediately self-quarantine and contact the COVID-19 Call Center at (877) 215-8336.

Thank you for your help in keeping our community healthy and safe. We will update information as it becomes available.

Pat Dodson
Grove Public Schools Superintendent