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Information about School Closures for Chester County Schools

Updated 4/15/2020

The Chester County School System is announcing that schools will remain closed through the end of the school year, ending May 21, 2020. Today, Governor Bill Lee announced his recommendation for all Tennessee schools to remain physically closed as a result of the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic and his Executive Order #27 to extend the social distancing and the “Stay-At-Home” provisions until April 30, 2020.

As shared earlier, the Chester County School System is sensitive to how these decisions are impacting our local families and students. The Chester County School Staff still pursues the goal to balance our desire for students to have their current needs met including the engagement with learning given the significant challenges many families are facing.

Because our primary concern is for the health and safety of our students, the following commitments of Chester County School Staff will continue through May 2020:

The Chester County School System will continue to provide meal distribution on Tuesdays and Fridays at Chester County High School at 552 East Main Street, Henderson, TN during the hours of 10:00 am through 12:00 noon. The meal distribution will serve every child who is 18 years or younger with breakfast and lunch meals for multiple days. The final date for meal distribution this school year will be Friday, May 15, 2020. On that final Friday, meals will include breakfast and lunch through the following Monday, May 18, 2020.

The Chester County School Staff will continue to routinely communicate with their students to check on their health and well-being with this long break. The school staff truly miss their students and are committed to communicating with all students remotely by electronic means. Also, the Chester County School Staff are working to ensure that their instructional preparation for the 2020-21 school year will provide the best learning opportunities for all our students.

The Chester County School Staff will also continue to make available optional educational resources and activities to students to promote and retain their previous learning. Our students and staff have worked extremely hard this school year to gain much academic

content skills and knowledge that would have been well demonstrated by students at the close of the school year. These optional learning resources can support students' efforts to retain and grow. A reminder that these resources and activities are not required, and there will be no formal assessments given or grades recorded. The Chester County School Staff have provided and will continue to provide these optional resources routinely.

The recent decisions by the State Board of Education have guaranteed the promotion of students who were showing academic progress at the time of the initial closure on March 20, 2020. Students will not be retained in their present grade or subject due solely to the school closure that occurred last month. There will be communication from school staff to families prior to May 21 of students' final grades for this school year. Be reassured families that Chester County School Staff will plan to engage students in learning where they are when they return to school in the 2020-21 school year, and meet their individual needs as would occur any year.

Finally, to ensure that all school building facilities will be ready for students' return, next week (April 20-24, 2020) our schools will be experiencing an additional method of disinfecting called "ozone disinfection." To reassure our families and staff that all school facilities can once again be considered safe, healthy places for students to learn, work and grow, each school will be treated with this disinfecting procedure that is considered more effective than chlorine in destroying viruses. Again, our primary concern is for the health and safety of our students and this additional process of disinfection will provide an extra level of protection for all.

On behalf of the Chester County School System and the Chester County Board of Education, I want to thank everyone for your patience and support as we attempt to provide information that addresses the physical, academic, emotional, and social needs of our students, families, and staff. I realize that not every question or concern has not been addressed with this information. If you have other questions or concerns regarding your student's academic status as well as all other needs, please don't hesitate to contact your school principal or me. I pray that our decisions are benefiting all to return quickly to our regular life routines. Please take care to stay safe and healthy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Kilzer, II". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a double underline at the end.

Troy Kilzer, II Chester
County Schools