

March 16, 2020

Dear Hawthorn Community,

The past 72 hours have been tumultuous, as districts across the state respond to the declaration by Governor Pritzker on Friday, March 13 that all Illinois school districts will be closed starting Tuesday, March 17.

Illinois superintendents spent the majority of Saturday and Sunday in teleconferences with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) staff seeking additional clarification on the designation of days as Emergency Days or Act of God Days, and the implementation of e-Learning plans. Here is what we know right now:

1. Tuesday, March 17 - Friday, March 20 have been designated as Act of God Days, and will not be made up at the end of the school year. Students will engage in e-Learning. District 73 is going to amend the school calendar and apply the Institute Day on Wednesday, June 3 to Monday, March 16. At this point, the last student attendance day will be Wednesday, June 3. Please note this date is tentative.
2. Monday, March 30 - Friday, April 3 will continue as e-Learning days. Today, staff are preparing learning activities that students may participate in at home. These activities will not be used in determining students' overall grades. Additional information is forthcoming and will be shared with you via SchoolMessenger.
3. Beginning Tuesday, March 17, all staff will be working remotely and our buildings will be closed. If your family needs something from the school, such as medication or supplies, please call the school office and make arrangements to pick up the item(s) by 2:00 p.m. today (Monday, March 16) when staff are still in the building.
4. District 73 will provide meals to families with children 18 years old and younger during our e-Learning days, due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Meal service will begin on Tuesday, March 17 and continue through Friday, March 20. There will be no meal service during spring break. Meal service will resume from Monday, March 30 through Friday, April 3. To help ensure we have the appropriate levels of food available for distribution, families in need of meal service are asked to complete [this brief survey](#) today (Monday, March 16) by 2:00 p.m. The district will host a pick-up station at: Middle School South, 600 Aspen Drive, Vernon Hill, IL 60061

Pick up times are from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. for families with last names beginning with A-L.

Pick up times are from 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. for families with last names beginning with M-Z.

These are historic, unprecedented times, and thus unsettling for all of us. We will continue to do what we can to ensure the health and safety of students, parents, and staff, and to ensure that teaching and learning continues.

We appreciate your support and understanding.

Sincerely,

Peter Hannigan, Ed.D
Superintendent