

Scales Mound CUSD #211
210 Main Street
Scales Mound, IL 61075
Phone: (815) 845-2215 Fax:(815) 845-2238

Dr. William G. Caron
Superintendent/PK-2 Principal

Dr. Matt Wiederholt
3-12 Principal

Mr. David Wiegel
Athletic Director

March 15, 2020

To all Students and Parents of Scales Mound School,

As you have heard, the Governor has made a proclamation closing all schools from at least March 17, 2020, through March 30, 2020. At this time we do plan on resuming school on March 31, 2020, unless further closures are warranted due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak. As of Saturday, March 14, 2020, I was assured by the Jo Daviess Health Department that there were no active cases of the virus in our county.

We will have at least one administrator on site during our regular school day hours of 7:30 AM. to 3:30 PM., in case of an emergency and you are unable to be home with your child. We will exercise social distancing practices to the best of our ability to keep students safe. On Monday, March 16, 2020, we will be asking all students to take home all personal effects home so that our custodial staff can sanitize the building during the closure period. Students may want to bring an extra bag or backpack to take items home. We are asking that students stay home during this time to enable our staff to properly sanitize the building and playground areas.

We are committed to keeping students engaged in their learning during this statewide school closure. To that effect, today, the outstanding staff of Scales Mound School pulled together to update activities and learning opportunities for our student while the school is closed. We will be sharing this information with students throughout the day and with parents and the Board of Education on Monday, March 16, 2020. Understand that we will be sending out information on an ongoing basis, so thank you in advance for your patience with multiple emails.

To supplement the learning activities provide by the staff, we encourage you to engage your children in other free, online educational activities. The Illinois State Board of Education has compiled a library of resources at www.isbe.net/keeplearning.

Children may express anxiety about schoolwork, grades, college admission, and not being in school. As part of our social emotional and academic supports, staff will be available throughout the closure via email or other forms of communication. Our school counselor, social worker and psychologist will be sharing information with our families on how they can support our students on our school website or student's Google drive.

Additionally, concern over this new virus can make children anxious. It is very important to remember that children look to adults for guidance on how to react to stressful events. If adults seem overly worried, children's anxiety may rise. Adults should reassure children that health and school officials are working hard to ensure that people throughout the country stay healthy.

Children also need factual, age-appropriate information about the potential seriousness of disease risk, so the focus of conversation should be concrete instructions about how to avoid

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infections and the spread of disease. Teaching children positive measures, talking with them about their fears, and giving them a sense of some control over their risk of infections can help reduce anxiety. Please talk with your children about precautions they can take to stay healthy, including:

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is best, especially if they are visibly dirty. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol is a suitable alternative. Consider showing your children one of these videos about proper hand washing technique: www.cdc.gov/handwashing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
- Stay home if you are able to stay home. Avoid travel if you can.

The National Association of School Psychologists has additional guidelines about talking to children about COVID-19 at [https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource).

Our cafeteria staff will be offering free breakfast and lunch for all students during the school closure. Parents who would like to take advantage of this service must email the cafeteria at lunch@scalesmound.net or by calling the school and leaving a detailed message each day by 6:00 PM Sunday through Thursday. Lunches may be picked up at the lower high school entrance between 11:30 and 1:00 PM. The package will include the lunch for that day and the breakfast for the following day. Additionally, on Monday, March 16, 2020, if there are any families who would like to pick up extra cartons of milk, you may come in after 3:00 PM to receive this milk.

We will continue to inform you as quickly as we can about any further changes to school services. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact our school office at 815-845-2215.

We appreciate your partnership, and we will get through this together. Precautions taken now may help offset a spread of illness in the future.

Sincerely,

William G. Caron
Superintendent