

Tri-County Schools

Independent School District 2358

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Dear parents, guardians and students,

As we prepare for distance learning, I wanted to send this letter to give families a more clear picture of how this will work for the duration of the school closure.

Here are updates and information we want families to know:

Food Service

For the duration of the closure, Tri-County will be providing meals (current day's lunch and next day's breakfast) on scheduled contact days to any school age students, free of charge. If you wish to sign up for this service, please contact the school by email (attendance@tricounty.k12.mn.us) or by calling the District Office.

Childcare

For the duration of the closure, Tri-County will be providing childcare for families that qualify as Tier I Emergency workers as defined by Executive Order 20-02. This service is free of charge to families. Childcare will be available on scheduled contact days from 7:30 am-5:30 pm. Enrolled students PreK-6th grade are eligible for the childcare. If you wish to sign up for this service, please contact the school by email (attendance@tricounty.k12.mn.us) or by calling the District Office. However, drop-offs are allowed if needed. Students will be asked about any illness they may be experiencing, and student temperatures must be below 100°F.

Technology

Students in grades 6-12 will be using *Google Classroom* as their primary learning platform. Students in those grades who do not have a desktop computer, ipad, chromebook or laptop are asked to please contact the school by email (attendance@tricounty.k12.mn.us) or by calling the District Office and we will arrange for a device.

Students in grades PreK-5 will be contacted on a regular basis by their teachers using *ClassTag*, *Facebook* or email (whichever works best). Students in those grades are not required to have a device as they will be receiving education packets (see below for more information)

Families that currently do not have internet services in their home are asked to contact Wiktel at (218) 436-2121. Wiktel has generously agreed to offer free services to qualifying customers with school aged children for the duration of the closure.

Distance Learning – Grades PreK-5

Method of Deployment/Retrieval

Starting Monday, March 30th, school staff will deliver education packets to every PreK-5th grade student who reside outside of the Karlstad city limits. Families receiving deliveries are asked to have a covered tote or cooler placed outside as a drop off/pick up point. Families with students who reside in the city limits of Karlstad are asked to pick up their packets from Main Entrance #1 of Tri-County School. Doors are open 24 hours a day for pickup and packets will be separated by grade.

Families residing in the city limits of Karlstad are asked to return their student(s) completed education packet to the same entrance on **Wednesday, April 8th**. Families residing outside of the Karlstad city limits are asked to have their student(s) completed education packets placed in their covered tote/cooler for pickup, also on **Wednesday, April 8**. At the same time, new packets will be available for pickup and delivery. This will occur every subsequent Wednesday during the closure.

Distance Learning – Grades 6-12

Method of Deployment/Retrieval

Starting Monday, March 30th, teachers will post assignments and lessons via Google Classroom. Due dates for each class will be listed for each class. Students are requested to check their school emails on a regular daily basis. Students requesting packet delivery will receive them and have them retrieved on the same schedule as grades PreK-5.

Communications

Google Classroom, Facebook, Zoom, ClassTag and email are the preferred communication tools. Families and students are asked to download and set up each of the listed apps.

Tri-County School staff will make daily contact with students through communication listed above. Staff will also strive to ensure voice or video contact is made with every student at minimum of once a week.

Staff Office Hours

Tri-County Staff will maintain office hours from 8:30 am-3:30 pm during every scheduled student contact day. Staff will be available via email, phone, *ClassTag, Facebook, Google Classroom* or other communication tool agreed upon by families. Staff will strive to work with their students and families on the best methods of communication.

Tri-County's full Distance Learning Plan will be posted on the school's website by Friday, March 27. Please direct question to either your student's teacher or to the District Office. We understand this is new and will work with families through this new experience.

Regards,

