

School District of Ashland

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April 3, 2020

Dear Oredocker Families,

I would like to once again thank you all for your support, understanding, and patience as we have managed this unprecedented time in our School District community.

The situation surrounding the coronavirus and extended school closures continues to evolve. Given the absence of certainty around when schools will reopen, your dedicated teachers and administrators continue to develop their knowledge and skills to provide virtual lessons and resources for students and families.

The School District of Ashland will continue to follow the adopted [2019-20 school year calendar](#). Please note that students will have an instructional break starting April 8th at 1 p.m. to accommodate staff engaged in professional development. There will also be no school on April 9th (staff inservice) or April 10th (holiday).

We are committed to engaging our parents and families in every child's education. To continue our journey to excellence, we are gathering data from stakeholders to determine where we are as a District, as well as to set and act on realistic, measurable goals for continuous improvement. The [Parent Satisfaction Survey](#) allows parents to provide feedback on their experience with their child's school. Attached to this communication is a flyer with a link and QR Code for you to take the survey.

FACILITIES

In an effort to stop the spread of the coronavirus and keep our community safe and healthy, all schools, including the District Office, playgrounds, and athletic fields, are closed to the general public. If you need to connect with an employee, please call your child's school for assistance.

MEAL SERVICE

The School District is committed to providing meal service for the duration of the required school closure. We are pleased to report that we served more than 17,000 meals last week. We are extremely grateful for the food service department, custodial staff, assistants, and teachers who have helped with meal distribution. The following is the schedule that has been established for weekly meal distribution:

Ashland High School
Parking Lot Entrance S7
Mondays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tuesdays, 4 to 6 p.m.

Marengo Valley School
Near Main Entrance
Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Birch Hill Community House
77948 Plantation Lane
Tuesdays, 12 to 3 p.m.

Please complete the following survey to assist the district in meal planning: [Student Meal Request Form](#). You may also access it via www.ashland.k12.wi.us, under the "Oredocker Links" menu.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact our Food Service Director, Amanda Tutor, at 715-682-7089 ext. 1022.

STUDENT LEARNING

High School Graduation

Graduating from high school is one of life's milestones, and the School District of Ashland is committed to providing the class of 2020 a commencement ceremony, giving students the opportunity to "walk across stage." Graduation will be Sunday, June 7, at 2 p.m. In the event that schools remain closed at the time, the District will reschedule a ceremony as soon as it is possible.

Educational Delivery Model

Starting Monday, April 6th, your child's teacher will provide enrichment and practice activities. Teachers will communicate with your child on how to access the materials online. For example, your child's elementary teacher has created a Family Google Site that has activities to engage movement, play, create projects, things to write about, and suggested times for engaging in learning. Students should select from the options of listed activities to do daily and are encouraged to share what they are doing with their teachers. These

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opportunities are designed to engage students to practice skills they have been working on this school year, keep them active, and enhance their knowledge.

Parents, we recognize the competing demands that exist during the pandemic and that each of you will need to do what is best for your family. I have found that providing my four children with a routine has been helpful. I share this simply to support your efforts in navigating this difficult situation.

Starting Monday, April 13th, your child's teacher will begin facilitating e-learning. E-learning is a means to teach your child using technology to deliver instruction live or with pre-recorded lecture content, video, quizzes, simulations, games, activities, and other interactive elements. For example, your child's teacher may provide pre-recorded video lessons of a skill, and then give your student an opportunity to make meaning of and practice that skill. Your child's teacher will be available to connect one on one or in groups to provide support during "office hours."

For students who are unable to access these virtual lessons, administrators and staff are developing a plan to ensure the continuity of learning to the best of our abilities during a time when face-to-face contact is not encouraged. Further details regarding this approach will be communicated soon.

Technology Distribution

This week, we were able to distribute 684 devices to students in grades K-8. It was wonderful to see so many families, as we miss connecting with you. We would like to thank everyone for their cooperation and patience with the distribution of technology.

If you were not able to pick up your child's device, please contact us at 715-682-7826 and leave your contact information. A School District of Ashland employee will be in contact with you in a timely manner.

Internet Access

We recognize that throughout our region, there are internet barriers families may be facing. We've included a link to offers for services and other resources that may assist you during this time: <https://dpi.wi.gov/broadband>

Materials and Resource Distribution

Next week, we will work to create a process for distributing materials and resources to families and students unable to connect virtually with their teachers during this time. Staff will develop a distribution plan for materials for students identified as needing materials due to technology or internet barriers.

STUDENT SERVICES

Providing Social and Emotional Support to Help Your Child Cope

COVID-19 has changed our lives in ways we never could have imagined. This is stressful for our parents and students, and we are here to help provide support and ideas to help. It is reasonable to expect that your children may exhibit challenging behaviors during these uncertain times. Here are a few steps you can follow to ease COVID-19 anxiety for yourself and your kids:

Step 1: Have Conversations Regularly. Children are more attentive than we often realize, and they are likely hearing about the coronavirus—whether or not we talk with them about it. When they don't have the full picture, they will fill in the details for themselves. Ask your children what they have heard about the coronavirus and how they are feeling about it. This will help you provide facts and ease their understandable worries.

Step 2: Establish a Routine. We cannot overstate the importance of routines! COVID-19 is disrupting our daily lives in many ways. Although the amount of impact is different for each person, everyone is still affected to one degree or another. Creating a daily family routine can help adults and children alike regain a new sense of "normal." One way to do this is by structuring your children's day as close as possible to what it was before COVID-19. For example, have them:

- Wake up, get dressed, and eat breakfast at the same time they did when going to school.
- Go to a non-distracting area of your home to engage in creative or learning activities during a portion of the hours they usually would be in school.
- Copy the school schedule by switching activities every 30-40 minutes or so. At "lunchtime," eat lunch together.

Step 3: Engage in Self-Care. It's important for kids to get enough sleep, eat healthy food, and engage in physical exercise. During times of anxiety, these self-care activities become even more essential. You may want to think about the types of activities that relax your child when they experience other stressful events. What do you do to relieve fears at the beginning of a school year, for example? Build those same soothing activities, as well as self-care actions, into your family routine.

Step 4: Stay Connected. "Social distancing" measures are meant to keep people healthy. However, children may be sad or even angry about needing to limit their in-person interactions with friends and family. To keep your kids from feeling alone, help them stay connected with others in new ways. Use technology like Skype, Zoom, FaceTime, or other apps to set up "virtual playdates." Check our District Facebook page for fun videos of staff members reading to our students.

Step 5: Focus on the Positive. At dinnertime or before bed, ask your children to share the highlight of their day. Share your highlight, too! The more we practice focusing on gratitude, the more our brain is oriented toward finding the good. Let your kids know that even though there's still much to learn about COVID-19, it's up to the adults to figure it out and they don't need to worry. Stay positive. Talk about all the things people are doing together to help and stay healthy.

COMMUNICATION

The District created a [coronavirus web page](#), where you can find the latest updates and information. On this web page, you will also find the [School District of Ashland Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Community FAQ](#). (Please note that the FAQs are in progress and are being continually updated.)

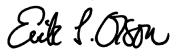
Points of Contact

If you have questions or need support, please reference the [points of contact page on our website](#) or contact your child's school office. We strongly encourage you to use email at this time. If you call the phone numbers listed, please be sure to leave a voicemail and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

In these times of uncertainty, we will continue to adapt based on new information as it unfolds. In an effort to provide you with the information you need, I will be sending district letters on Fridays, and each principal will send a video on Mondays. Please reach out to your child's teacher, principal, or me if we can be of any help. In the meantime, we encourage all families to practice good hygiene and social distancing.

The health and safety of our team and our families will remain our number one priority as we unify to serve our students. May you all remain safe, healthy, and Oredocker Strong!

Sincerely,



Erik T. Olson
Superintendent