



March 16, 2020

Subject: Plans for March 17th, 18th, and 30th

Dear Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 Students, Staff, and Families,

We had a productive day in each of our schools today and are ready to provide continuity of learning for our students on March 17th, 18th, and 30th. Lots of additional meetings, conversations, and planning occurred surrounding the guidance provided by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). This guidance, along with all other public notifications that have been provided by ISBE can be accessed by visiting <https://www.isbe.net/coronavirus>. In an attempt to keep you informed and up to date, we are sharing the following plans with you.

There are three instructional days (3.17, 3.18, and 3.30) that were originally scheduled that are impacted by Governor Pritzker's closure of schools between March 17th and March 30th. As shared in [yesterday's letter](#), the time period between March 17th and March 30th have been declared Act of God days. ISBE has provided guidance to create continuity of learning for our students. Our staff have created those continuity of learning experiences and will be sharing them via Google Classroom and/or email no later than Tuesday morning, 3.17.2020. These continuity of learning experiences are available to utilize between March 17th and March 30th with the goal of a smooth transition back to our regular daily schedule on Tuesday, March 31st.

We will open our building offices on Tuesday 3.17, Wednesday 3.18, and Monday 3.30 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. During this time, students who may be in need of additional materials to participate in the continuity of learning activities, access to wifi to download activities to complete offline, or who need to retrieve items from their lockers may stop in during this window of time to do so. To ensure the health and wellness of students and staff, and in effort to continue our efforts to maintain social distancing, we ask that if students do need to pick up materials that their stop in the building is brief. Our buildings will be closed from March 19th through March 29th.

As we navigate this unprecedented time, we recognize that students may be feeling uneasy or stressed about the unknown. Our mental health staff have put together resources that will be available on our district website under the Student Services section (<https://www.hbr429.org/domain/26>). We will also be sharing these resources utilizing Facebook and Twitter as they become available. If you are looking for us on social media, our username for both Facebook and Twitter is @HBRCUSD429.

Please know that as new information surfaces, we will communicate that out. We are working to prepare for a potential lengthening of our statewide school closure. While we are unsure of the future decisions, we want to make sure we are prepared. We hope to see your students on Tuesday, March 31st.

I want to take a brief moment to thank our staff for all of their work during this past two weeks. I can honestly say that we have an amazing staff that cares about each and every one of our students. Their dedication to doing what is best for students is unmatched. Thanks to our bus drivers, teachers, custodians, paraprofessionals, secretaries, tech staff, and administrators for all you've done and continue to do. I also want to thank our parents and community partners. Your willingness to step up to the plate and come together to service our community has been awesome to watch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Travis L. McGuire". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Dr. Travis L. McGuire
Superintendent