

ATTENTION PARENTS & STUDENTS:

First of all, I hope that everyone is staying safe and well. I apologize for the length of this message, but as our current conditions continue to evolve, I feel that it is very important for us to communicate well and for all of us to be as well informed as possible to keep moving forward. Immediately below are a few of the highlights and key points, but I would encourage everyone to review all of the information when you get a chance. Thanks again for your understanding and flexibility.

- Beginning on Tuesday, March 31st, E-learning will now be mandatory for all Illinois school districts until the current shelter-in-place order is lifted on April 8th, or beyond if the required school closure is extended.
- In moving forward, I am very confident with where we are at today. Because of our staff's willingness to do whatever it would take to get started with e-learning right away on March 17th, I feel that we are definitely ahead of the curve and very well-positioned to transition as smoothly as possible into this next phase. I do not think that too much will change for us in Wilmington as we continue moving forward with e-learning, at least in the near future. Participation is no mandatory and required for all schools and all students. There may be some small adjustments and updates to our e-Learning procedures related to the grading & assessment of student work, designated timeframes for students & parents to communicate with teachers / administrators, etc. But overall, I do not expect too many significant changes for Wilmington students and staff as a result of this most recent action from the governor and state board of education.
- Your child's teacher(s) and/or building principal will be contact you sometime soon
- Please check the main e-learning website daily for the most current and updated information - <http://bit.ly/2TMrdt2>. Occasionally, additional notices may be posted on the main district webpage at www.wilmington.will.k12.il.us and on the District's facebook page at www.facebook.com/WilmingtonLearn.
- Monday March 30th will be an e-learning day of instruction for Wilmington students.
- No E-learning will take place for Wilmington students on this Tuesday and Wednesday to allow for staff to coordinate and plan together for future e-learning activities.
- There will be a curbside meal pick up available at WHS on Tuesday March 31 from 9-11am for any students who are on free or reduced lunch status. Food to cover 5 days worth of the school closure will be provided to these students at that time. We will not be able to offer any delivery of meals at this time. Updates regarding the availability of meals for students will be provided on a weekly basis until we return to regular school activities.
- Please contact your child's Principal with questions.

- Additional information will be shared with parents & students over the next few days.

See below for more detailed information....

You may already be aware that Governor Pritzker signed an executive order on Friday which will officially adjust the 'act of God' status on all regular school days which will be missed as a result of the state-wide required school closure. As we move beyond Monday, March 30th, all Illinois school districts will be required to engage with students on each school day with e-learning / remote learning activities. This will be applicable beginning March 31 up until the current closure date of April 8 and beyond, if another closure extension is decided upon.

The result of this order is a required shift to remote learning for everyone. In Wilmington, the regular face to face school days which were missed during the week before Spring Break (March 17-20) and again tomorrow (March 30) were not legally required to be handled with e-learning. However, our staff worked extremely hard to make that opportunity available immediately for our students, and a tremendous amount of support and appreciation was received from our Wilmington students, parents, and families.

With this most recent executive order from Governor Pritzker, all Illinois public schools will now still be required to complete a full regular school calendar to finish out this year, including a total of 176 pupil participation days, either through e-learning or in-person if the stay at home order is released at any point between April 8th and the end of the school year. Please be aware that the days missed during the week before Spring Break which were labeled with an Act of God designation will count towards that total of 176 days. Those days will NOT need to be made up at the end of the school year.

In moving forward, I am very confident with where we are at today. Because of our staff's willingness to do whatever it would take to get started with e-learning right away on March 17th, I feel that we are definitely ahead of the curve and very well-positioned to transition as smoothly as possible into this next phase. I do not think that too much will change for us in Wilmington as we continue moving forward with e-learning, at least in the near future.

Please be aware that participation in e-learning / remote learning is no longer optional or voluntary. It is a requirement for all Illinois schools and all students. Of course, if your child or children are unable to participate at any time in the weeks ahead due to illness or other extreme family trauma as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, I would ask for you to communicate directly with their teachers and building principal. In the days ahead, we will also be asking our staff to connect directly with all of our families to

find out how exactly how we can best support you in moving forward into this extended period of e-learning. Parents of students who do NOT have access to technology and the Internet at home should clearly communicate that with their child's teacher and building principal. We will be committed to ensuring that all students have access to the necessary learning materials in the days and weeks ahead.

Along with this new requirement for participation in e-learning / remote learning, we did receive additional guidelines and recommendations from the state board of education regarding issues such as the grading & assessment of student work, approximate daily time commitment expectations for students & staff, access for students/families who do not have any internet access at home, and much more. In order to make this transition go as smoothly as possible for all Illinois schools, the Governor did allow for school districts to dedicate some time for teachers and administrators to effectively communicate and plan together for a successful shift to our new temporary 'normal' with e-learning. We have decided to devote two days during this upcoming school week - Tuesday March 31 and Wednesday April 1 - for this purpose of planning & communicating together. **So, please know that tomorrow will serve as a regular e-learning day, but no additional teaching or learning activities will take place on our e-learning website(<http://bit.ly/2TMrdt2>) until Thursday April 2nd.**

Our staff has been studying the new state guidelines and recommendations throughout the weekend; and we will be spending the next few days communicating and finalizing the Wilmington e-learning program together. As soon as any new information or details are available for parents, updates will be shared. But once again, due to our early implementation of e-learning, I would not expect any significant immediate changes to what was initially experienced during the week before Spring Break.

As we continue moving forward, our Wilmington e-learning website will serve as the central hub of all remote learning activities. I would request for all students to begin each day of learning by checking in on this page before diving in to their specific schools, grade levels and classes to complete their daily assignments. We will be keeping the most updated information available on this e-Learning webpage (<http://bit.ly/2TMrdt2>).

Please remember that there will be a curbside meal pick up available at WHS on Tuesday March 31 from 9-11am for any students who are on free or reduced lunch status. Food to cover 5 days worth of the school closure will be provided to these students at that time. We will not be able to offer any delivery of meals at this time. Students and families who do not typically receive free & reduced meal benefits are encouraged to explore the generosity of our local Kuzma Care Cottage. Their typical operating hours are 9am to noon Monday-Friday. Families are being asked to park in the back by the porch and stay in their car until instructed by a volunteer. Families in need of some extra assistance should watch for updates on the Kuzma Care Facebook page, or can also call 815-476-2030 to verify hours before stopping by for a visit.

I hope that you were able to get a little rest and enjoy some family time over spring break. Thanks again for your support and understanding as we try to navigate these challenging times together, striving to serving our kids well during this unprecedented time.

Take care and stay well,

Matt

Matthew W. Swick, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Wilmington School District 209u - Wilmington, IL

www.wilmington.will.k12.il.us

@WilmingtonLearn

815.926.1751

As Iron Sharpens Iron

ATTENTION PARENTS & STUDENTS:

First of all, I hope that everyone is staying safe and well. I apologize for the length of this message, but as our current conditions continue to evolve, I feel that it is very important for us to communicate well and for all of us to be as well informed as possible to keep moving forward. Immediately below are a few of the highlights and key points, but I would encourage everyone to review all of the information when you get a chance. Thanks again for your understanding and flexibility.

☒ Beginning on Tuesday, March 31st, E-learning will now be mandatory for all Illinois school districts until the current shelter-in-place order is lifted on April 8th, or beyond if the required school closure is extended.

☒ In moving forward, I am very confident with where we are at today. Because of our staff's willingness to do whatever it would take to get started with e-learning right away on March 17th, I feel that we are definitely ahead of the curve and very well-positioned to transition as smoothly as possible into this next phase. I do not think that too much will change for us in Wilmington as we continue moving forward with e-learning, at least in the near future. Participation is no mandatory and required for all schools and all students. There may be some small adjustments and updates to our e-Learning procedures related to the grading & assessment of student work, designated timeframes for students & parents to

communicate with teachers / administrators, etc. But overall, I do not expect too many significant changes for Wilmington students and staff as a result of this most recent action from the governor and state board of education.

☒ Your child's teacher(s) and/or building principal will be contact you sometime soon

☒ Please check the main e-learning website daily for the most current and updated information - <http://bit.ly/2TMrdt2>. Occasionally, additional notices may be posted on the main district webpage at www.wilmington.will.k12.il.us and on the District's facebook page at www.facebook.com/WilmingtonLearn.

☒ Monday March 30th will be an e-learning day of instruction for Wilmington students.

☒ No E-learning will take place for Wilmington students on this Tuesday and Wednesday to allow for staff to coordinate and plan together for future e-learning activities.

☒ There will be a curbside meal pick up available at WHS on Tuesday March 31 from 9-11am for any students who are on free or reduced lunch status. Food to cover 5 days worth of the school closure will be provided to these students at that time. We will not be able to offer any delivery of meals at this time. Updates regarding the availability of meals for students will be provided on a weekly basis until we return to regular school activities.

☒ Please contact your child's Principal with questions.

☒ Additional information will be shared with parents & students over the next few days.

See below for more detailed information....

You may already be aware that Governor Pritzker signed an executive order on Friday which will officially adjust the 'act of God' status on all regular school days which will be missed as a result of the state-wide required school closure. As we move beyond Monday, March 30th, all Illinois school districts will be required to engage with students on each school day with e-learning / remote learning activities.

This will be applicable beginning March 31 up until the current closure date of April 8 and beyond, if another closure extension is decided upon.

The result of this order is a required shift to remote learning for everyone. In Wilmington, the regular face to face school days which were missed during the week before Spring Break (March 17-20) and again tomorrow (March 30) were not legally required to be handled with e-learning. However, our staff worked extremely hard to make that opportunity available immediately for our students, and a tremendous amount of support and appreciation was received from our Wilmington students, parents, and families.

With this most recent executive order from Governor Pritzker, all Illinois public schools will now still be required to complete a full regular school calendar to finish out this year, including a total of 176 pupil participation days, either through e-learning or in-person if the stay at home order is released at any point between April 8th and the end of the school year. Please be aware that the days missed during the week before Spring Break which were labeled with an Act of God designation will count towards that total of 176 days. Those days will NOT need to be made up at the end of the school year.

In moving forward, I am very confident with where we are at today. Because of our staff's willingness to do whatever it would take to get started with e-learning right away on March 17th, I feel that we are definitely ahead of the curve and very well-positioned to transition as smoothly as possible into this next phase. I do not think that too much will change for us in Wilmington as we continue moving forward with e-learning, at least in the near future.

Please be aware that participation in e-learning / remote learning is no longer optional or voluntary. It is a requirement for all Illinois schools and all students. Of course, if your child or children are unable to participate at any time in the weeks ahead due to illness or other extreme family trauma as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, I would ask for you to communicate directly with their teachers and building principal. In the days ahead, we will also be asking our staff to connect directly with all of our families to find out how exactly how we can best support you in moving forward into this extended period of e-learning. Parents of students who do NOT have access to technology and the Internet at home should clearly communicate that with their child's teacher and building principal. We will be committed to ensuring that all students have access to the necessary learning materials in the days and weeks ahead.

Along with this new requirement for participation in e-learning / remote learning, we did receive additional guidelines and recommendations from the state board of education regarding issues such as the grading & assessment of student work, approximate daily time commitment expectations for students & staff, access for students/families who do not have any internet access at home, and much more. In order to make this transition go as smoothly as possible for all Illinois schools, the Governor did allow for school districts to dedicate some time for teachers and administrators to effectively

communicate and plan together for a successful shift to our new temporary 'normal' with e-learning. We have decided to devote two days during this upcoming school week - Tuesday March 31 and Wednesday April 1 - for this purpose of planning & communicating together. So, please know that tomorrow will serve as a regular e-learning day, but no additional teaching or learning activities will take place on our e-learning website(<http://bit.ly/2TMrdt2>) until Thursday April 2nd.

Our staff has been studying the new state guidelines and recommendations throughout the weekend; and we will be spending the next few days communicating and finalizing the Wilmington e-learning program together. As soon as any new information or details are available for parents, updates will be shared. But once again, due to our early implementation of e-learning, I would not expect any significant immediate changes to what was initially experienced during the week before Spring Break.

As we continue moving forward, our Wilmington e-learning website will serve as the central hub of all remote learning activities. I would request for all students to begin each day of learning by checking in on this page before diving in to their specific schools, grade levels and classes to complete their daily assignments. We will be keeping the most updated information available on this e-Learning webpage (<http://bit.ly/2TMrdt2>).

Please remember that there will be a curbside meal pick up available at WHS on Tuesday March 31 from 9-11am for any students who are on free or reduced lunch status. Food to cover 5 days worth of the school closure will be provided to these students at that time. We will not be able to offer any delivery of meals at this time. Students and families who do not typically receive free & reduced meal benefits are encouraged to explore the generosity of our local Kuzma Care Cottage. Their typical operating hours are 9am to noon Monday-Friday. Families are being asked to park in the back by the porch and stay in their car until instructed by a volunteer. Families in need of some extra assistance should watch for updates on the Kuzma Care Facebook page, or can also call 815-476-2030 to verify hours before stopping by for a visit.

I hope that you were able to get a little rest and enjoy some family time over spring break. Thanks again for your support and understanding as we try to navigate these challenging times together, striving to serving our kids well during this unprecedented time.

Take care and stay well,

Matt

Matthew W. Swick, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Wilmington School District 209u - Wilmington, IL

www.wilmington.will.k12.il.us

@WilmingtonLearn

815.926.1751

As Iron Sharpens Iron