

# NETTLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Drawer 409, 179 Mullen Ave.  
Nettleton, MS 38858

March 17, 2020

Nettleton School District Family,

The past several days have been very unusual to say the least. The path we are to take going forward is not clear. However, we will go through it together and help each other become stronger on the other end of this pandemic. I don't know of anything positive that comes with fear, anxiety, panic, and complaining. So let me encourage all of us to press forward with a sense of calm, rationale, and just good ole common sense. I want to share with you some things.

## **Immediate information:**

1. Our maintenance staff and janitorial providers have been and will continue to make sure our facilities are being disinfected to the best of their abilities and that our campus is safe for when our students and staff return. This includes the buses that many students ride on.
2. I have been in constant contact with MDE, MSDH, other health officials, NMEC, and surrounding school district superintendents since the latter part of last week. That will continue to happen as long as necessary to try to make the right decisions for the wellbeing of our community.
3. I have met with our administrators, central office staff, and maintenance department to ensure that we are all doing our part in this unusual time.
4. The vast majority of our staff will not be on campus while our school is closed simply to allow them to take care of themselves and their households. However, they will continue to work toward planning for our students' return, analyzing data as it becomes available, learning how to keep our school/their classrooms as clean as possible.

## **Looking forward to normalcy:**

1. Students and employees who have traveled to countries identified by the CDC as Level 3 or who have been on a cruise with a confirmed case of COVID-19 are to quarantine themselves for 14 days from the time they returned home before returning to school.
2. All MHSAA events are cancelled until at least March 29<sup>th</sup>. This means no practices, games, or fine arts events will be held during that time.
3. All school travel is suspended indefinitely, including, but not limited to, field trips, conventions, professional development, etc.

4. Please make it a point to practice good hygienic methods by washing your hands (for 20 seconds each time) and cleaning all surfaces touched frequently.

**Make up days:**

The President of the United States and the Governor of Mississippi have declared a state of emergency due to the pandemic. It is expected that the MS State Board of Education will approve a waiver that will allow school districts to operate on less than a 180-day school year. However, it is unclear how many days less than 180 they will allow, if any.

**Communication:**

Our school district will try our best to communicate with you using our call system, the news outlets, and social media. Information about school closures will be sent to you as soon as possible.

**What you can do:**

1. Remain calm and reassuring to your children.
2. Make yourself available to listen and talk. Make sure children understand about COVID-19 in simple but truthful terms.
3. Remember that viruses can make anyone sick, regardless of who you are or how old you are.
4. Read to your children daily and encourage them to read to themselves and their younger siblings.
5. Ask your child's teacher if there is anything he/she can provide to keep your child learning during this school closure.
6. Play board games, card games, go for walks, go fishing, etc. Just spend quality time with your children.
7. Avoid close contact with other people.
8. If you are sick, stay home.
9. Follow the guidelines that are posted by the CDC and the MS Department of Health.

The school district will continue to monitor this rapidly changing situation and continue to seek guidance in the areas previous mentioned. Thank you for supporting us in this time of unrest. We always want to do the things that will protect the well-being of our school and community.

Sincerely,



Tim Dickerson

Superintendent, NSD