



Shoshone-Bannock Jr. /Sr. High School

We Are A Small School . . . But A Big Family

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March 26, 2020

Dear Staff, Parents and Guardians:

As you know, our first stage of emergency closures due to the coronavirus pandemic tentatively anticipated that students would return to school on Monday, April 6. After receiving guidance from the State Board of Education, we are implementing a soft closure period through Monday, April 20, 2020, but will continue essential services.

Effective immediately, Governor Brad Little has ordered all Idaho residents to remain at home except for necessary activities and directed non-essential businesses close until April 15, 2020 in order to slow the spread of coronavirus.

What does this mean for our school?

According to the Governor's stay home order, education is classified as an essential service: Educational institutions—including public and private K-12 schools, colleges and universities—for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing essential functions, provided that social distancing of six-feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible.

Please note, from day one, this emergency has rapidly evolved. All information presented here is subject to change. We encourage you to be proactive in checking the school's Facebook and website for updates. We will also be sending out Textwires when updates are available.

Tentative Timeline

- School will resume via at home instructional 5-day packets beginning March 30, 2020. Students will need to check in with their teachers once a week via scheduled Zoom meetings in the afternoons starting March 31, 2020 (schedule and Zoom links to be posted at a later date) or by email. Packets will be dispersed during the meal delivery and pickup time on Monday's. Coursework completed from the packets will be picked up or dropped off the following Monday. Teachers will be creating new 5-day packets Thursday and/or Friday of each week.
- School staff scheduled to help with grab-and-go breakfast/lunch bags and instructional packets will be only in the building to get these tasks completed.

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- For students doing online credit recovery coursework (APEX): We encourage families with limited or no internet access to check with local providers to assess current low-cost options. We are checking to see if we can subsidize the cost. We have some laptops that we can set up and check-out to our credit recovery students who have internet access. If necessary, we can schedule times for credit recovery students to come to the school in the mornings to use a computer in one of the labs using proper social distancing.
- For learners currently receiving special education services through an individual education plan (IEP), a letter has been placed in your instructional packet with contact information for all our Extended Learning staff members.
- The school will operate starting Monday, March 30, 2020 at 8 am each weekday until essential services are completed and staff will be directed to go home to work remotely. Teachers who don't have internet access at home for Zoom meetings can work in their classrooms during those scheduled times.
- Grab-and-go breakfast/lunch meal service will begin on Monday, March 30. Bus route deliveries will start at 9:15 am. Drive-up pickup will start at 9:30 am in the bus lane out front.

As we work through this new challenge, in addition to keeping our staff, students and their families healthy and safe, our primary goal is to provide seamless educational services to our students to the best of our ability. We encourage you to stay at home as much as possible and follow the guidelines of our state and local health department to keep your families safe and healthy. We appreciate your patience, understanding and flexibility.

Unable to contact some family units to answer key questions: Starting last week, we have attempted to contact all our family units to find out how we can distribute meal services and instructional packets. We have been unable to contact several family units. If you were not contacted by the school about meals and packets, please call the school and leave a message with your updated contact information. We are also asking family units if they have or are able to get internet access at their homes. In addition, we need to know if you have a computer or laptop that can be used to access that internet connection when available for each of their students. This will help us to decide on whether or not we can switch to online learning if the soft closure extends to the end of the school year. We have been given permission to purchase additional laptops with one of our grants so we could check out laptops to those who would need them if we do switch to online learning.

Sincerely,

Allen D. Mayo, Principal