

Drea O'Donnell
Superintendent
Curriculum Director
406-373-5461

Janice Ripley
Business Manager/Clerk
406-373-5461

Macey Ferguson
Asst. Clerk/Activities Clerk
406-373-5461

Shepherd School District #37

7842 Shepherd Road
PO Box 8
Shepherd, MT 59079-0008

Autumn Arlian
Elementary Principal
406-373-5516
FAX 406-373-5076

Rich Hash
Middle School Principal
Athletic Director
406-373-5873
FAX 406-373-5648

Kenneth Poepping
High School Principal
406-373-5300
FAX 406-373-5342

Students and Parents,

April 24, 2020

The past couple of months have been like no others in public education! We have had school closures, on-line learning, and I'm sure lots of frustrations. I feel through this whole process our students are the ones who took the hardest hit. There will undoubtedly be gaps in educational standards we will be faced with in the future.

On Wednesday, the Governor made the announcement that school districts could choose to reopen with a number of restrictions that need to be in place to make that happen. It was my recommendation, along with the administrative staff, to continue with remote learning for the remainder of our school year. After a board meeting held today, the board decided to continue the year with off-site instruction. There were many factors that led to this decision, which was not an easy one to make. With only having 11 days of school left, we felt it was the best decision to make in a rough situation.

We will have the following schedule for students/families to return to school to get the items that were in desks and lockers. Please keep in mind to only bring a limited number of people into the buildings on the days you can pick up items. PLEASE RETURN ALL ITEMS such as Chromebooks, library books, and textbooks that you have at home during the allotted time you are here to get your own personal items.

- Packet students: ALL packet work will be DUE on Friday May 15th. You will have from 8-12 to drop off packets, clean lockers and pick up your items from your desk.
- The following week will be broken down into smaller groups of the alphabet in order to obtain social distancing requirements.
 - Monday, May 18th 8-12 – families whose last names end in A-D
 - Monday, May 18th 12-4 – families whose last names end in E-H
 - Tuesday, May 19th 8-12 – families whose last names end in I-L
 - Tuesday, May 19th 12-4 – families whose last names end in M-P
 - Wednesday, May 20th 8-12 – families whose last names end in Q-T
 - Wednesday, May 20th 12-4 – families whose last names end in U-Z

Graduation will tentatively take place as an outside event on May 31 at 11:00 AM. We will keep up to date on the Governor's Phase re-opening plan in order to make sure we can still hold to that date as it gets closer. We will only be able to accommodate the groups of 10 people per family for each graduate this year.

As of right now, our summer camps and building use requests will not be permitted before June 15th, 2020. We will keep you updated on the rest of the summer we go.

Again, we want to thank you for your support as we move through this time. If you have any questions, please feel free to call your building administrators with any questions about the checkout process. We look forward to a fresh new beginning for the next school year.

Sincerely,

Drea O'Donnell
Superintendent

