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# Shepherd School District #37

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Dear Students and Parents,

April 6, 2020

I just wanted to touch base and give you an update on our school closure situation. I also want to address our academic future which is both our teaching as well as your child's performance.

Today, the Governor updated the school closure to continue through April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We anticipate these closures to continue in two week increments so we will likely have another update in two weeks with more information. I will continue to send out information as we receive it to give you the most up-to-date information we have here at school.

As we continue through this process, I want to make sure both you as a parent and your student are working through this process with open communication in mind. Please contact your child's teacher if you are seeing concerns or struggling in any way. We are worried about our student's well-being along with their academic progress. Academically you should be seeing about the following hours per day for our child. Elementary students should be seeing 2 hours per day, middle school students should be about 3 hours per day and high school student should be at about 4 hours per day. Some days they may have more and some may be less. Encourage your child to add extra activities (academic or physical) into their day as well. I would like remind parents and students that **school is still in session** even though the buildings are closed. Please help hold your child accountable for their academics. We do not want to be in a situation at the end of the year discussing what should take place for those students who have done nothing over the course of the building closures.

As we move forward this is the plan we have in place:

- Spring break will take place from April 9<sup>th</sup>- April 13<sup>th</sup>. Please note that assignment may have due dates during that time to give students extra time but NO NEW instruction and assignments will be given during those dates. Also, our food service program will NOT be serving breakfast and lunch during that time. They will not serve April 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> but will resume on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Teachers will continue with online instruction with students. Middle school and high school students should be checking their emails each and every day. Teachers can be contacted via email for questions during the school day.
- New paper packets for those without internet can be picked up from each office on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 8-12. Please bring completed packets from March 30<sup>th</sup> -April 8<sup>th</sup> back at that time. Teachers will then have the chance to grade and give feedback for those getting packets.
- Lunches will still be provided through the extended closure for free to every student and can be picked up at the school from 11-12 Monday-Friday. If you are still needing lunch to be provided, please contact Amanda Stahl [a-stahl@shepherd.k12.mt.us](mailto:a-stahl@shepherd.k12.mt.us) to be added to our list.

Again, we want to thank you for your support as we move through this time. I am not only proud of our staff here at school for working through this, I am also proud of our students and families. We are Shepherd!

Respectfully,  
Drea O'Donnell  
Superintendent

