

Good evening WPS parents,

This is a big day for the Wichita Public Schools, as we prepare to roll out Phase 1 of our continuous learning plan. Our Deputy Superintendent Dr. Tiffinie Irving, and her team of educational leaders, have done a great job preparing materials so that Wichita students can be engaged and continue learning this spring.

I want to share some critical information with you about [continuous learning plans](#) in the Wichita Public Schools:

- **What does it look like:** Beginning Monday, March 30, packets of learning materials will be available each week for students in grades PreK-12. New packets will be available each week, for the next eight weeks. The packets will include language arts and math learning resources, and will allow parents to engage their students in optional learning at home.
- **How can you get the packets:** There are **two ways** to access these learning packets –
 - **1) Paper copies of Pre-K – High School packets** will be distributed Monday-Friday from 11:30am to 12:30pm at all 18 of our food distribution sites. Packets are also available at Christa McAuliffe, Gordon Parks, Horace Mann and Stucky. All high schools will have high school packets only.
 - **2) Electronic copies** are available on our continuous learning site (usd259.org/WPSlearn) as of today (3/27/20), which also includes additional learning resources and links to online curriculum tools that students are accustomed to using during the traditional school day.
- **Support is available!** We have established a continuous learning hotline, and our educational leaders are prepared to help you with any questions you may have. Parents or students can call **(316) 973-4443**, or email at homework@usd259.net.
- **Educators will reach out next week** I know that some of you are already hearing from your child's teacher. Through the week next week, all educators will reach out to every WPS student. Our Phase 1 lesson plans will engage students the week of March 30, and teachers will develop Phase 2 lesson plans for learning opportunities that will take place April 6 and beyond.
- **Don't worry!** Parents, please don't worry that these continuous learning opportunities will require your child to be online for 7 hours a day. When you pick up your packets, we will provide suggested learning times for students of various grade levels. We will learn together in this new educational world, and we will be here to help you with questions you may have!
- **Encourage your children to learn differently** As we create a "new normal" learning environment this spring, I encourage you to help your children learn differently. Think of outdoor activities for their physical education learning. Cooking can cover elements of math, and maybe even science! There are so many projects and activities around the home that create an opportunity for you to help your student think about math and language arts learning. And perhaps most important, *make sure your children continue to read every day*. Literacy is and always will be the single most important contributor to student success.

In addition to continuous learning, I want to give you a quick update on our meal service to children. Beginning on Monday, when students pick up their lunch super-snack, **they will also be able to pick up a breakfast for the next day**. In addition, parents can now review each day's breakfast and lunch menu by visiting our web site – www.usd259.org/menu. I have attached a revised [meal distribution flyer](#), as well as a continuous learning flyer with details about packet pick up.

As I close, I would ask you to remember two things - **breathe deeply, and go slow!** Education is all about **relationships**, and that's where the magic will be as your students re-engage with their teachers. While your student's relationships with teachers may look different going forward, the relationships they will continue next week will reinforce a sense of normalcy that we all so desperately need in these uncertain times.

Best wishes for a safe and healthy weekend.

Sincerely,

Alicia Thompson
Superintendent