

Good evening WPS parents,

We have learned a great deal the first two days of this week with our continuous learning packet distribution plan, and I want to provide you with several updates on this issue:

What we know is:

- There is significant interest in packets in key locations in our community, so much so that we had long lines and ran out of packets at several locations;
- Many parents haven't been able to get to our pick up locations during the day or to access and print at home; and
- Parents in our community care a lot about the education of their children.

Because of this, we expanded our service hours *this* week for the pick up of Week 1 packets at any middle school or K8 school between 9-11am and 1-2pm, or at high schools *for high school material only* during the same expanded hours.

More important, WE HAVE CRAFTED A NEW PLAN FOR WEEK 2 AND BEYOND:

- No in-person packet distribution at any location effective April 6.
 - Week 2 packets for PreK – 8th grade students will be mailed or available online.
- You are encouraged to verify your correct mailing address is in the system using our ParentVUE parent portal. If an update is necessary, please call your child's school during daytime hours to update the mailing address.
- PreK-8th grade packets for Week 3 and beyond will be combined into one packet per grade level. For example, your 1st grader will receive one packet with all materials for weeks 3-8.
 - **In order to receive the Week 3 packet, parents must OPT IN to receive the second mailing** (*more details available later this week*).
- Families are encouraged to access packets and supplemental learning material online (www.usd259.org/WPSlearn).
 - If you access information online, you do not need a printed packet.
 - Many students will be familiar with these online learning resources (for example, Lexia and Dreambox for elementary students) which are currently used in our classrooms.
 - For students new to these online options, the packets provide instructions for logging in for the first time.
- High schools packets will not be mailed, and teachers will continue to engage high school students because of the specialized conversations about graduation requirements, unique courses and the desire by students to impact grades for future scholarship recognition. High school parents or students may contact their high school administrator or teachers with questions.

In addition to packet details, it is important that you are aware that **we are closing and locking our playgrounds**. This is being done at the recommendation of the Sedgwick County Health Department, and the same is occurring at public parks. I know it will cause angst in our community, but it is important to public safety and stopping community spread of coronavirus.

Every decision we have made has been with a focus on the SAFETY of our staff, our students and our families. We will continue to make decisions through this lens in the difficult days ahead. **THANK YOU** for everything **YOU** are doing to sustain the legacy and the impact of the Wichita Public Schools in our community.

Respectfully,
Alicia Thompson
Superintendent

- Good afternoon Wichita Public Schools parents, this is Superintendent Alicia Thompson.
- We have learned a great deal this week regarding our packet distribution plan, and I want to update you on several changes we are making to our plan.
- We know that there is significant interest in paper packets in key locations in our community, so much so that we had long lines and ran out of packets at several locations.
- We know that many parents haven't been able to get to our pick up locations during the day or to access and print the materials at home; and
- We know that parents in our community care a lot about the education of their children.
- Because of this, we expanded our service hours this week for the pick up of Week 1 packets, and **we have crafted a new plan** for Week 2 next week and beyond.

- There will be NO IN-PERSON PACKET DISTRIBUTION at any location, effective Monday, April 6.
- Week 2 packets for PreK through 8th grade students will be mailed or available online.
- PreK through 8th grade packets for Week 3 and beyond will be combined for each grade level, and will be mailed to all families *who opt in* to receive this information.
- I will share more details with you on Friday.
- High schools packets will not be mailed, and teachers will continue to engage high school students because of the specialized conversations they're having about graduation requirements, unique courses and the desire by students to impact grades for future scholarship recognition.
- In addition to packet details, it is important that you are aware **we are closing and locking all of our playgrounds.**
- This is being done at the recommendation of the Sedgwick County Health Department, and the same is occurring at public parks.
- I know it will cause angst in our community, but it is important to public safety and stopping community spread of coronavirus.
- Every decision we have made has been with a focus on the SAFETY of our staff, our students and our families.
- We will continue to make decisions through this lens in the difficult days ahead.
- Thank you for your continued engagement in your child's education.