

Good afternoon WPS parents,

It's hard to believe that it was just three short weeks ago when our world started to change quickly, and we cancelled spring break travel not knowing what was ahead of us. Since then, our efforts to transform education has been nothing short of remarkable. THANK YOU to our parents and our students for all you have done to work with us to create meaningful new ways to learn!

Noted below are several key updates that will support student learning:

- **Purpose of Packets:** Our continuous learning packets are the first step, *not the only step*, to engage students in continuous learning. Packets are designed for students to re-engage their brains and adjust to what may be a new way of learning that involves more self-direction and self-discipline. Teachers are now reaching out to engage students through a variety of methods including phone calls, online class meetings, and review of data from both packets and online learning tools like Lexia, Dreambox, Mathia and Edgenuity. If you have questions about your student's continuous learning, please call their school or email their teacher/principal to talk further about expectations and opportunities.
- **Paper Packet Distribution – PreK-8 Students:** Starting next week, we will no longer have in-person pick up of continuous learning packets for PreK-8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Next week, Week 2 packets will be mailed to all PreK-8 homes. For Week 3 and beyond, **families must opt-in to receive mailings**. [Please click here to opt-in online](#), or **call your child's school by 3pm on Thursday, April 9**. We will not mail Week 3 packets to any family who has not opted in. You can find more information on this new packet distribution plan on our web site – [usd259.org/WPSlearn](http://usd259.org/WPSlearn).
- **Paper Packet Distribution – High School:** Because of the uniqueness of high school learning and coursework, high school teachers and administrators will provide instructional and packet guidance directly to their students.
- **Food for Kids:** Our nutrition services heroes have served nearly 66,000 meals since March 25. We continue to adjust safety practices to assure the safest possible serving environment for employees and families. Because of this, **starting Monday, April 6, we will have in-person meal pick up TWO DAYS A WEEK (Monday and Wednesday)**. On Mondays we will distribute two breakfasts and lunches, and on Wednesdays we will distribute three breakfasts and three lunches. Location and time will remain the same for now – 18 sites throughout our district, from 11:30am to 12:30pm. *Students must still be present to receive meals*. More information is available on our web site – [usd259.org/menu](http://usd259.org/menu).

Today will be my last scheduled parent outreach, as our schools and teachers are now well-positioned for regular contact with your students. If there is important news to be shared, though, you can count on me reaching out to continue keeping you informed.

Wichita Public Schools is essential to our community, and I have every confidence that we WILL get through this difficult time by working together and showing one another grace. **And as a reminder, don't forget to wash your hands and practice safe social distancing!**

Respectfully,

Alicia Thompson

Superintendent