



# Sandhills Public Schools



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**Superintendent: Gary Cooper**

**Principal: J.D. Furrow**

*Dear Sandhills Public Schools Families,*

*The time has come to put into action a plan to continue the education of our children with online line and remote resources. As you have been informed today, Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup>, is the last day we will have school with kids in our buildings. We have put together a schedule of events leading up to Monday March 23<sup>rd</sup>, which will be the first day of remote class.*

*Tuesday – Dismiss School at the normal time with buses running accordingly. Kids need to clean out lockers (both athletic and academic) just like summer break. Students also need to take supplies home that will be necessary to do classwork on Monday*

*Wednesday – Friday These days will be work days for staff to prepare for the remote learning environment. We have a lot of teacher to teacher tutorials happening and lots of online resources being investigated. The administration will use this time to put together a schedule so students and parents are aware when teachers will be available for help or interfacing opportunities.*

*Monday – First Day of Remote Class. What this looks like will be different for every class and age group. There will be considerations taken for what kind of device and internet access the students have. Our students who are 1 to 1 will still have their device at home. Remember this is still the school's property. It was advised by the ESU that we not send devices home with kids who have not been 1 to 1 before, so at this time the elementary students will not be taking computers or ipads home with them. We will consider this more, later.*

*\*Important Note: We don't expect kids to do school work from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. The teachers were instructed that they should expect a couple of hours each day for kids to work. We also do not believe that the parents should have to be their students full time teacher. Your assistance in delivering our remote education is critical, but our teachers will still be available to help, guide, and advise along the way.*

*As a school we think it is very important to keep our school lunch program available to our students. With this in mind we plan to keep our kitchen in operation. The plan is to provide a sack lunch that also has a grab-and-go breakfast in it. These lunches will need to be ordered by phone Thursday or Friday the week before they are delivered. We will not be taking any lunch orders after 3:00 p.m. We will have lunch pickup at the following stops German Valley church, Brewster Community Center, the High School in Dunning, the Elementary School in Halsey, and in front of the Bank in Purdum. These stops will also be used from time to time by the teachers to send out packets of work and information. Times will be determined and communicated ASAP.*

*Grade Freeze: As of Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup>, our students' grades are frozen. If we don't reconvene for the end of the semester the grades that the student has today will be what they get for their semester grade. Students can work with teachers individually to see if there is anything, they can do to supplement their current grade, but the administration is not mandating any grading during the*

remote schooling. The remote schooling will be considered enrichment and we feel is necessary for the students so they won't be behind when we restart classes.

It is important that all students, parents, and staff understand that our facilities are basically in a moratorium. Students will not be allowed to shoot baskets, get in a track work out, or go to the weight room. Students or parents can come to the school to pick up needed supplies or briefly meet a teacher but for the most part we want the kids to stay off-site. The school will remain open for business. We will take our packages and people can stop in to pay bills etc.

We believe it is going to be a long time before we return to business as usual. With this in mind, we really want parents to know that we can put them in touch with services to address issues with anxiety and mental health that are bound to arise. If you, your student, or someone you know is having a hard time dealing with this adjusted lifestyle we want you to reach out and let us know so that we can get people the help they need. These times are serious and our mental health should not be taken lightly.

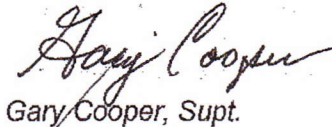
The last note and most important. To a person, our staff loves kids. We want to do what is best for them however that might look over the next few weeks. We truly wish we could have the kids in class. It's upsetting to the teachers on how much direct instruction the students will miss. We have encouraged our staff to be flexible and not add stress to themselves or others at this time. We hope that the work we do for our kids can be the light at the end of the tunnel and that our way of life can soon return to normal. As parents, you are our partner in this process more than ever before. So let's work together.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call J.D. Furrow at the school Wednesday-Friday.

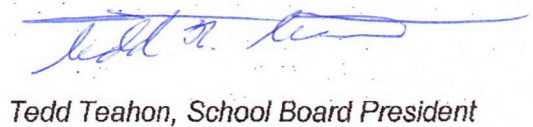
Respectfully,



J.D. Furrow, Principal



Gary Cooper, Supt.



Tedd Teahon, School Board President