



Jefferson High School

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District Office

School Office

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April 17, 2020

Dear Staff, Families, and Patrons,

The recent extension of school closures has created a number of challenges for the entire school community. The effort to come together as a school community has required hard work, flexibility, and resolve. I am extremely proud and humbled by these efforts over the past six weeks.

We as a school community miss the students and the opportunities to physically interact with them on a daily basis. Last week, I was moved by the distribution of the senior's caps and gowns in front of the school, a small gesture of letting them know the importance of being recognized. Off site learning continues with the same platforms developed with the initial school closure. The district has purchased hotspot capabilities and installed them on school computers as a means of extending online learning to any students interested. Weekly packets are also available and are distributed at the school.

All classified staff has been able to continue their employment and have been valuable assets during the school closure. Paraprofessionals help with school packets, lunch deliveries, and individual student assistance. The custodial staff has been able to get started with some deferred maintenance and continue to keep the school clean and safe. This group has worked tirelessly to keep the school and the process functioning.

This coming Tuesday, Governor Bullock will address the state and provide an update and direction for public schools. Many questions will be addressed that need to be answered regarding schools.

The Montana Office of Public Instruction has suggested continued school closure through the end of the academic year, and President Trump has provided guidelines for states to open in phases. These questions and mandates will guide future school decisions and will be determined by state and local authorities, including local school boards.

Future decisions will also help develop guidelines for grading procedures and graduation ceremonies. I am saddened for our seniors at this time. This is supposed to be the pinnacle of many years of education and to celebrate accordingly. Continue to strive to meet the goals of your diploma, find

optimism and keep you heads high. I am not sure what graduation will look like but every effort will be made to celebrate this milestone in your life. Information is being gathered and a number of ideas discussed throughout many high schools in Montana.

Again, if there are questions or concerns, reach out to the school, teachers, and staff. We are here to assist all students and will continue working together to support each other. A big thanks go out to all in our school community for supporting others in need. We are extremely fortunate to any businesses or groups who have contributed to provide assistance.

We are in this together, stay safe and healthy.

Respectfully,

Tim Norbeck, Superintendent