

FALL RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"The Scholarship City"

417 Rock Street, Fall River, MA 02720

Matthew H. Malone, Ph.D., Superintendent

March 14, 2020

Dear Fall River Public Schools Community,

After careful consideration and extensive discussions regarding COVID-19 with district and city leaders, I have made the decision that we will open for a half-day on Monday, March 16, 2020, for students and staff and then close for the rest of the week. The purpose of this is to prepare students/teachers for an extended closure. As a result:

1. Our schools will be open on Monday, March 16, 2020, as an early release day for students and staff. All schools will follow their early release dismissal schedule, serving breakfast and lunch. Faculty/Staff will be dismissed with students. Please note this should be a typical day, which should also include an opportunity for teachers to review the Continuity of Learning Plan with students.
2. Our schools will be closed from Tuesday, March 17, 2020, through Friday, March 20, 2020. All essential office staff (payroll and bookkeeping) principals, 12-month personnel including facilities, maintenance will report as scheduled. Nutrition staff will be contacted by their supervisors in regards to their schedule. Supervisors will provide further information regarding one's ability to telecommute and work from home.
3. All school activities and events will be canceled during this time.
4. District and City leadership will monitor and re-evaluate the local and state-wide situation and will communicate the next steps by Thursday, March 19, 2020.

Families: On Monday, if you choose to send your child, we will welcome them, feed them and provide a safe environment as we prepare them for an extended closure. For the rest of the week, our buildings will be closed. Should you need to retrieve medication or personal items, please contact the building principal to make arrangements for pick-up. This is not a snow day, please read the guidance available on social distancing. During the time we are closed, please use our Continuity of Learning platform <https://www.fallriverschools.org/resources/frps-clp> to keep students engaged in learning. These activities will count toward final grades.

Food Service: The district will make breakfast and lunch available in the form of grab-and-go bags at four (4) locations (Henry Lord, Fonseca, Kuss, and Durfee) from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm at the cafeteria entrance. This option is open to all children in the City of Fall River regardless of what school they attend.

Faculty/Staff: On Monday, March 16, 2020; your presence on this day is appreciated and valued as we set the stage for student learning and time away from our children's connected learning communities. You will be released when students are dismissed and principals will communicate with you regarding any new information. We are a team, we are a family and we appreciate that you are a steady compass for our students. Use your best judgment, if you are unable to report to work, we understand.

Students: The district hotline is 508-675-8420. Please call if you need any support or resources during this challenging time. We are here to support you. Do not hesitate to ask for help. Please use our Continuity of Learning platform <https://www.fallriverschools.org/resources/frps-clp> to keep learning and growing. As of March 9th, I have waived your attendance per our failure policy. The work completed during the time our schools are closed we be included in your final grades.

I have made this decision on the best advice of local and state officials. However, the best advice and counsel I have received has come from parents, teachers, and students. I know you are scared and worried – I am too. But, we will get through this together. We will continue to communicate and we will continue to make practical decisions based on the best interests and well-being of our students and employees.

Cordially,

Dr. Matthew Malone



Superintendent of Schools