April 16, 2020; 2:55pm

Hello Everyone,

I am writing today to let you know that the Governor announced today that schools will be closed through the remainder of the 19-20 academic year.

We miss our students so much and are so saddened that we will not be back in our buildings this school year. We are already considering ways to honor their accomplishments through graduations and other ceremonies. We are also considering if it is feasible to prepare for and host a summer school program. I can assure you that we will continue to do everything that we can to make sure that you and your children are cared for and supported.

We will continue on with our virtual/digital learning platform and continue to educate our students as best as we can during this time. I encourage all of us to seek help when it is needed; this may include academic support, mental health help, logistical support, or financial assistance, etc.

It is extremely important that we take care of each other during this time and continue to make sure that we take care of ourselves and our families. Please know that this school district and all of our staff are here for you and your children!

We will continue to communicate as we go along regarding many other items: grading, pick up of materials, graduations, awards ceremonies, etc.

Thank you so much and please be safe,

Brad

March 16, 2020; 4:58pm

Hello Everyone,

Below is the recorded phone message that I recently sent regarding our upcoming school closure:

Good afternoon everyone,

This is Brad Ebert, Superintendent of the Kiel Area School District, calling with a cancellation related announcement.

Today Governor Evers announced a ban on all gatherings of 50 people or more people. He did say that the ban would not affect services such as grocery stores, food pantries, childcare centers, pharmacies and hospitals. Schools are no longer exempt from this ban and to ensure the safety of our students and staff, school will be closed beginning tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17th through April 5, 2020.

Teachers did their best to communicate with all students today regarding the digital learning plan going forward and parents and students should watch for future communications from

those teachers. Please remember that the digital learning plan that you received yesterday via email will begin on Monday, March 23, 2020.

Please be sure to check your email this evening for future details.

During this time, we will do everything we can to provide your children with a positive learning experience.

Thank you so much and be safe...

Brad

March 15, 2020; 9:25pm

Hello Everyone,

I hope you are all doing well this evening.

As promised, I am outlining our plan for digital learning as we prepare to close down our schools as directed.

I want to begin by sharing with you once again that we are in constant contact with our school nurse, the county health department, Center for Disease Control and the Governor's office regarding updates surrounding the Coronavirus. We will continue to follow the state mandates and the advice of our county health department and the CDC regarding our area At this time, we will be in session Monday through Wednesday of this week and all buildings will be closed at 5 pm on Wednesday. Please know that this is subject to change if we are directed to close by any of the agencies mentioned above.

It is really important that I let you know that if you as parents are not comfortable sending your children to school during this time, the school district will support your ability to keep them home and they will not be penalized for their absences.

Below I am outlining the plan for our digital learning during the time when school is closed:

The Kiel Area School District will have students in session from Monday, March 16th to Wednesday, March 18th.

After Wednesday students will not be allowed into the school building until at least April 6th. With this, students will be expected to bring all materials and personal belongings home by Wednesday, March 18th. Through this effort to remove all student items, cleaning staff will continue efforts to disinfect and deep clean the school.

Thursday and Friday, parents of students in grades 3 through 7 will be able to check out their child's Chromebook at their respective school.

Buildings will be open on Thursday from 8 am to 6 pm and Friday from 8 am to 4 pm; parents are directed to go to the office and they will guide you to the Chromebook pick up station...details on returning the Chromebooks will be shared with you when school resumes. Please know that checking out a Chromebook is optional, as I know that many families have devices that students are able to access.

If your household does not have Internet access please contact Charter Spectrum for a no-cost, 60-day access to High Speed Internet. Please contact 1-844-488-8395.

Installation fees will be waived for new student households. Comcast is also offering free 60-day access.

Chromebooks will be monitored at all times for content and search history. All Chromebooks will continue to have a school-based filter limiting access to certain web content.

Further details and instructions will be provided by classroom teachers as we move along through the Google Classroom platform for grades 3-12.

4K-2nd grade teachers will be providing print resources that have directions already attached that teachers will be putting together and sending home.

On Monday, March 23rd, students will begin accessing learning from home (digital learning), established via Google Classroom and teacher-instructed curriculum. Further details and instructions will be provided to parents and students individually by classroom teachers through the Google Classroom platform and other means. eSchool students will continue to progress in their classwork through the eSchool platforms.

Finally, classes will resume April 6th at the earliest. Once again, that decision will be based on the recommendations from the agencies mentioned above. At no time during the district shutdown will students be allowed into the school building. Please continue to check the school website, Facebook, and School Messenger notification system to ensure up-to-date information regarding the school closure.

I will do everything I can to continue to provide you with information as we move along.

Thank you so much and take care,

Brad

March 15, 2020

Hello Parents and others,

I am writing to give you a quick update regarding the upcoming week...

The admin. team and I are getting together tonight to put the finishing touches on the digital learning environment that we will be setting up for our students during the days that school is closed.

Tomorrow, a group of us will be working to address other issues that we must consider - co-curriculars, providing food for those that need it, Internet accessibility for all, Chromebook check out, latest updates regarding the Coronavirus, etc.

That plan will be communicated to you as quickly as possible (this could be tonight or tomorrow during the day).

During this time I believe that it will take all of us coming together to make this work for our kids, parents, staff and community...thanks for your patience and understanding and more information is on it's way soon...

As a reminder, we will have students in our schools during the regularly scheduled hours on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.

Thanks so much and have a great day,

Brad

March 13, 2020

Good Evening Everyone,

I am writing today to provide an update regarding the Coronavirus and the recent school closing announcement made by Governor Tony Evers.

Late this afternoon, Governor Evers announced that all Wisconsin schools will be closed as of 5 pm Wednesday, March 18th and will reopen as of the start of the school day on April 6th.

Some news outlets reported this date incorrectly. I have verified with the Department of Public Instruction and the Governor's office that the closing time and date is 5pm on Wednesday the 18th.

With that said, students and staff will still report to school Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week.

When school closes as of 5 pm on Wednesday, ALL school related events and practices will be cancelled and all district facilities will be closed until April 6th.

We will continue to work through the weekend and early next week to address a number of things across our district, including the following:

- Digital Learning possibilities

- Meals for those that may not have them during the closed time

- Potential day care possibilities for parents that need to work

- Cleaning of our buildings, etc.

- Extracurricular events taking place after April 6th

- State testing, etc.

I will continue to communicate with you through email or phone as we go along. Thank you so much for your words of encouragement and thank you for your patience as we continue to work through this very difficult and evolving situation.

Take care and be safe,

Brad