



Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff,

To safeguard the health and wellness of students, staff and our community at-large, and to adhere to the mandate by Governor Pritzker, SPEED S.E.J.A. District 802 has decided to close our schools for students beginning on Monday, March 16, 2020 through Monday, March 30, 2020. **All staff must report to work on Monday, March 16, 2020 for a professional development day.**

While we know this is an unprecedented decision, these are unprecedented times. We have not been notified of any staff or student being diagnosed with COVID-19, but we think the evidence is increasingly clear that status may not last very long. After much agonizing thought and in keeping with CDC recommendations to limit or cancel gatherings of large groups, we thought it better to close our schools now rather than later to help slow the spread of the disease.

This decision was not made lightly. We are fully aware of the complications and hardships that this will cause in the lives of students, staff and their families. Nonetheless, we believe as a school system that we have a shared responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of our community. We hope our families and community will be able to make whatever plans are necessary to cope with this emergency closure.

#### **So now what happens?**

SPEED District 802 is finalizing resources and learning supports for students and families. Our staff will engage in a Professional Development Institute day on Monday, March 16, 2020 to complete academic and e-learning resources in an effort to provide continuous learning opportunities for our students. Please note that these supports are designed for maintenance of skills during the closure. These activities and supports do not replace the direct instruction and services that takes place during the regular school day. We plan to have e-learning resources accessible through our website.

We understand that some families may not have access to technology at home, so we are putting together learning packets that can be worked on at home. We will also provide staff contacts for each program and classroom on our website if any support is needed. More information will be provided by Tuesday, March 17 on how to access this information.

School offices will be open on Wednesday, March 18 and Thursday, March 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for parents to pick up student packets, medication, and if necessary, any other items left-behind.

Annual special education review meetings that were scheduled during the week of March 16-30 will be re-scheduled.

**SPEED S.E.J.A. #802**  
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**Our emergency closure plan**

**Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**

- Non-attendance day for students. **All staff will report on Monday, March 16, 2020.** This will be considered an Institute Day.

**Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**

- School Resumes for all staff and students

We will continue to share information and update families throughout the days and weeks ahead. Thank you for your patience, understanding, and flexibility as we try to do our very best for our students, schools, and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dr. Tina Halliman'.

Dr. Tina Halliman  
Superintendent  
SPEED S.E.J.A. District 802