

Dear SJS Parents,

This afternoon at a press conference, Governor Mike DeWine announced that all students in public, private, and charter K-12 schools will have an "extended" spring break beginning March 16th and lasting until April 3rd. SJS will be complying with the governor's order. Our last day of class will be tomorrow, March 13, 2020. We will plan to return to school on Monday, April 6, 2020, unless additional days are recommended at that time. The purpose of this closure is to limit exposure for the students as well as their family members. Children seem to be less at risk of having a severe reaction to the virus, but they still act as carriers. Also, students with compromised immune systems are also at risk. The next overall goal is to not overwhelm the healthcare system and limiting social contact is one way to do this.

So, what does this mean? Here are some details I have right now. The staff is diligently working to come up with a plan that will meet the needs of our families. Here is what I know:

-**Academics**- more information regarding this will be coming home soon. You can expect that your student(s) will have most of their school books with them when they leave school on Friday and SOME grades will have assignments with them, as well. Please designate a space in your home to keep these things safe. You will be responsible for lost/non-returned items.

- **The Father/Daughter dance** that was to be held this Saturday, March 14th is being postponed to a date that is TBD.

- As far as I know, the **Marco's Pizza fundraiser** night will still happen tomorrow (3/13) with your students' decorated boxes.

- Any **extra-curricular** activities that were to take place over the next three weeks will be cancelled, including all after school clubs, Parent Club, as well as sports, etc.

- **Access to food/necessities**- I know that this has come up quickly and it is part of my personal mission to always take care of our school families. If during this closure you feel that your family will not have enough food or access to food or other necessities, please let me know and I will help you out.

-**In grades 4-8, students will most likely need some kind of technology device and access to the internet** (like an iPad or a laptop) to complete all or part of their assignments. If this is a problem for your family, please contact me ASAP so I can help with a device.

-**Make-up time**- with the use of distance learning paired with our original spring break being during this closure, we should not need to add additional hours to our school year as long as we are permitted to return to school in early April. If not, we will take a look at adjustments then.

I am dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of all of our students, staff, and families and I am here for you if you have questions. Even though this is hard, I am very proud to lead such an amazing school with such supportive parents. You can reach me by email at amy.makruski@sjs-amherst.org. I will try to check as often as possible.

Mrs. Amy Makruski
Principal