

Twin Valley Schools

Unified District No. 240
Box 38 / Bennington, Kansas 67422-0038
(785) 488-3325

March 17, 2020

All Twin Valley Students, Parents, Patrons, and Staff.

Today, March 17, 2020 Governor Laura Kelly announced all school facilities will be closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. This will place tremendous hardship on our families and staff, and impact the social and emotional well-being of our students.

Since school facilities as we have known them will be closed, we are being asked to put together potential learning opportunities for students that could involve a mixture of in-person, online, and self-directed instruction for the remainder of what would be the school year. This will allow them to continue on their learning journey through what is now a very different PreK-12 experience in completing the 2019-2020 term. Some of that will involve attendance at our centers (observing CDC guidance). We just do not know how that will look at this very moment.

We will be receiving guidance from the Kansas State Department of Education sometime on the evening of Wednesday, March 18, 2020 regarding how we can create learning opportunities for your students. The KSDE has assembled a dedicated team of individuals that have been working around the clock for the past several days to develop that guidance.

Our professional staff has already been asked to consider ways this might look in the event this order was delivered by the Governor. Once we receive the information from the KSDE, the staff at Twin Valley will begin working within the parameters to provide the necessary learning opportunities for your child so that we they do not suffer academically and otherwise during this time.

Please remember that our staff and board of education are also working on other critical issues, such as what this means for our seniors, how this will affect next school year and what impact this will have on our employees. We will provide updates on these issues as soon as the information is available.

We are committed to working together as a community to support one another throughout these unprecedented times, and communication will remain a top priority. We will continue to communicate frequently through our school messenger service, school website, and our social media feeds.

We also realize you have a lot of questions. Trust us when we tell you that we too have many of those same questions. We will continue to work to find answers and communicate what we know about the events as they progress. Feel free to reach out to superintendent, Fred Van Ranken or your respective building principals. They will do their best to answer those questions.

As a reminder, this school closure is in response to the current public health crisis. The focus should remain on preventing the spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19 as it is also referred to.

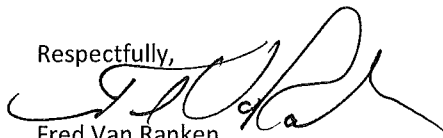
Please be mindful of the following:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing (cough/sneeze into your sleeve or a tissue).
- Please keep sick children at home.
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.

Follow additional guidance from these sources:

- [National Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)
- [Kansas Department of Health and Environment \(KDHE\)](#)

Respectfully,



Fred Van Ranken

Twin Valley Superintendent



Rosemary Neaderhiser

Twin Valley BOE President