



RTR SCHOOL DISTRICT #2902

Russell – Tyler - Ruthton

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Happy Thanksgiving,

This morning, Thursday, November 19th, the RTR ISD #2902 School Board met electronically and decided to move to a (PreK-12) Distance Learning Model. This change is in response to the high levels of COVID-19 and community spread across our school district. This remote learning plan will start on November 30th for all students.

Our proposed learning plan going forward would include the following items:

- November 23rd and November 24th will be designated staff planning days to prepare for the change in learning plans. Students will not report for class these two staff preparation days, but the Minnesota Department of Education does allow school districts to count them as student in-person educational days. We are allowed to use up to five (5) staff planning days in the 2020-2021 school year.
- November 25th, November 26th, and November 27th are Thanksgiving vacation days within our approved school calendar.
- Monday, November 30th, would be our first school day using Distance Learning for all (PreK-12) students and staff.
- In an effort to track COVID-19 infections within our school population, we ask that parents and staff continue to inform school personnel of positive cases during our time of distance learning. Those that test positive would not have to quarantine again if exposed to another positive case within 90 days. To report a positive case, please contact one of the people below:

RTR Nurse, Bev Seehusen: bev.seehusen@rtrschoools.org

RTR Elementary Secretary, Jordan Lichtsinn: Jordan.lichtsinn@rtrschoools.org 507-658-3301

RTR Middle School Secretary, Julie Wieme: Julie.wieme@rtrschoools.org 507-823-4371

RTR High School Secretary Teri Schreurs: teri.schreurs@rtrschoools.org 507-247-5911

- We will reevaluate the COVID-19 infection rate on Wednesday, December 9th, which is our next regular RTR School Board Meeting date. If rates have reduced to a safer rate of infection, we would return to our current learning plans on Monday, December 14, 2020. If our COVID-19 rates are still high, we would continue with Distance Learning until sometime in January.
- Our varsity football and volleyball teams will be allowed to play games up to Friday, November 19th, at 11:59 p.m. After this time, which was set by the Governor, all activities, open gyms, games, and practices are prohibited until further notice. All public access to our facilities is prohibited.
- Our volleyball team will be playing Thursday, November 19th @ home with Redwood Valley, and again on Friday, November 20th @ Canby. Our football team will be playing Friday, November 20th @ Springfield. GO KNIGHTS!
- Our school facilities will be closed to the public during this remote learning time, as our custodians clean and sanitize our buildings.

- Daycare will again be offered to qualifying essential worker families during distance learning. The qualifications have changed this year where if both parents are essential workers, they would receive free daycare. If a single parent family is an essential worker, they also would receive free daycare. More information will be coming on the daycare program.
- Meals will be offered again to all students. Families will need to order and pick up the free meals at designated times. More information will be coming.

I am sorry that the COVID-19 infection levels are forcing us to take this action. I truly had hoped that we could make it happen where students would be in our buildings for the entire academic year. I understand that distance learning is not the best method of teaching our students, I know this learning plan causes much disruption and heartache for our parents, I know that some students struggle with this plan, but this plan is the safest for a while.

Please be confident that we will return to our current learning plans just as soon as possible!

Thank you for your support,

Superintendent David A. Marlette
Russell-Tyler-Ruthton (RTR) Superintendent
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