

# Prairie Hills USD 113

Preparing Kids, Shaping the Future  
Axtell - Sabetha - Wetmore

3.18.2020

Message to the USD 113 Community,

Yesterday we received the emotional news that school, as we know it, will not continue for the remainder of this school year. This will place tremendous hardship on our families and staff, and impact the social and emotional well-being of our students. My heart goes out to those students who rely on school for stability and support and were anticipating the end of the year activities and events.

We have been working with USDA programs and KSDE to provide breakfast and lunch to students in our communities during this closure. Additional information should be coming out soon from our district regarding times and locations for distribution.

We have been working on contingency plans, especially for how we can meet the ongoing learning needs for our students.

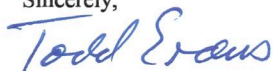
Our staff and board of education are working on critical issues. One area of concern is in regard to the continued employment of our staff. I have always said that our strength is our people. We have amazing employees that contribute greatly to all aspects of our kids' education. We want to take care of them. In working with the Kansas State Department of Education, we are planning to continue employment for all our staff during this time. We will provide updates on these issues as soon as information is available.

Our custodians have been working during this spring break to disinfect our buildings. We plan on working the week of March 23 with our administrative, teaching, and classified staff to develop our vision of how to maintain continuous learning. We will put together age-appropriate plans to continue to meet the learning needs of our students. I don't know what that will look like. We will be getting structure from the Kansas State Department of Education on this in the next few days. This will become our new normal for the remainder of the school year. My hope is that beginning Tuesday, March 31, we are able to begin implementing a non-traditional instructional plan for our district students. We will strive to continue to provide a world-class education for the students of our district.

We are committed to working together with our communities to support one another throughout these difficult times. We will be using email, text-caster, building-level social media and the USD 113 website for up-to-date information. Depending upon our assessment of who has internet access, communication may be through the postal service.

I have not experienced a situation like this in my lifetime. Our district has endured challenges and hardships before, and we will get through this together. We will not be remembered for the adversity that confronts us we will be remembered for how we respond to this adversity. In USD 113 we will continue to prepare kids and shape the future. Thank you for your thoughts as our school district moves forward in partnership with our communities.

Sincerely,



Todd Evans  
Superintendent

**Todd Evans | Superintendent | [evanst@usd113.org](mailto:evanst@usd113.org)  
Jennifer Gatz | Director of Student Learning | [gatzj@usd113.org](mailto:gatzj@usd113.org)**

**1619 S. Old Hwy. 75 | Sabetha, KS 66534 | Phone: 785.284.2175 | Fax: 785.284.3739 | Website: [usd113.org](http://usd113.org) | Email: [boe@usd113.org](mailto:boe@usd113.org)**