

Why are schools closing?

From the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI): This is a dynamic, fast-moving situation, and counties impacted by COVID-19 now represent 75% of Washington's population. Public health experts agree that this is the best time to do a state-wide closure, and going county-by-county would not allow Washington to get ahead of the wave of cases.

Will our school provide childcare?

For families of medical field workers and first responders, we will provide for preschool – 6th grade students at no cost. The childcare will run from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday at P.C. Jantz Elementary. The first day is Thursday, March 19th.

How will we keep kids in childcare safe?

We will take every measure possible to keep students and staff safe, including providing social distancing, ensuring constant hand washing, and sending student's home if they are sick, and routinely disinfecting commonly touched surfaces.

What if I don't work in those fields, and I still need childcare?

Please call the school offices or district office during normal business hours to discuss your individual needs. We will network with our families and community to try to help you.

Will meals be provided for students during closure?

We will be providing a sack breakfast and a sack lunch simultaneously Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the front of the elementary building. We will start distribution on Thursday, March 19th. We are currently working on the possibility of having buses and other district vehicles deliver food to various bus stop locations, but we are still working on those details.

Will students be learning from home during the school closure?

We have been instructed by OSPI not to provide mandatory online learning, unless we can provide such services equitably. We cannot do so at this point in time. We are working with our instructional staff to provide enrichment learning resources (some digital and some print) for our students and families. Such resources and activities will help our students continue to learn and build their skills during the closure. We will not roll this out until Monday, March 23rd as we need time this week for our teachers and paraprofessionals to finalize all the details and plans. We plan that these instructional packets will come out weekly and be available through our school website, Google Docs or can be picked up at the school.

What about state testing?

OSPI has decided to cancel all state testing for the 2019-2020 school year.

What about graduation requirements?

We await guidance from the state. We anticipate flexibility and emergency waivers.

Will we have parent-teacher conferences?

The parent-teacher conference scheduled for April 1st and 2nd will be postponed until a later date to be determined.

What will staff members be doing during the closure?

We are still working on the plan and may need a couple more days to figure out all concrete details. In a nutshell, staff will still be working, albeit in creative, non-traditional, and flexible ways and they will still get paid.

How might our community help?

We are open to any ideas you have. Just give the school a call. We have already had several amazing offers:

1. Help coordinate child care.
2. Deliver meals to students in need.
3. Be proactive and assist students with the provided enrichment activities during the closure.
4. Staff members have offered to perform duties outside their regular job descriptions.
5. Serving as a tutor to individual students during the closure.