



--sent 3/16/20--

Liberty School District Families,

I would first like to thank all of you for your kindness and support over the past several days as we have navigated through one of the most challenging times in the history of our district, region, and nation. What our leadership team will remember from these past several days is the number of emails and messages we received from parents, staff, and students who have offered their support and willingness to assist in any way.

I have participated in a variety of conference calls over the last few days with local health officials, city government leaders, state agencies, and area school superintendents related to the COVID-19 pandemic. After much discussion and consideration, the decision has been made to close Liberty Public Schools through Friday, April 3, 2020. The closure applies to all district schools, all extra-curricular activities and practices, and our before and after school care program, Kid's Zone. While closings and cancellations have become more commonplace, please know this has not been an easy decision.

We believe our district is in a good position as we continue our Flexible/Extended Learning Day model. This model, which allows teaching and learning to continue from home, was rolled out earlier this year as part of our inclement weather day plan. Flexible Learning is made possible by our 1:1 initiative, in which all LPS students and staff have computers. Our Academic Services team has been able to refine experiences from the inclement weather day and soon will be sharing updates on lessons and learning activities that will take place beginning March 23, 2020.

A major topic that has been weighing on all of us in recent days, with the likelihood of extended school closures, has been how to ensure those students and families that depend on us for nutrition services will continue to be served. Please know that our Nutrition Services team has been working diligently to develop a plan to assist families who may need additional support during this challenging time.

We wanted to share this information with you as soon as possible to allow families time to prepare for the extended closure. Additional information, with details and specifics, will be forthcoming. Also, any necessary updates will be provided on our LPS website (www.lps53.org).

I would like to offer a heartfelt "thank you" to our LPS Health Services team, Clay County Public Health Center, and all who have been spending countless hours working to keep us safe and healthy. All of these entities should be commended for their efforts. I also appreciate the commitment of our Board of Education and LPS Administration for their dedication to best serve our students, staff, families, and community.

Thank you for your support and partnership as we continue to navigate through this time. Please never hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. M. Jeremy Tucker