

# Sherman County School

*"Home of the Huskies"*

March 20, 2020



Sherman County School Community,

I hope this communication update finds everyone well as we face this community and national challenge together. It has been wonderful seeing students and families at the five community free meal pick up locations this past week. The free meals will resume on Monday, March 30, at each location at the same times previously communicated. The food bags and nonperishable breakfast items are available for all students and will continue to be provided each week day through, April 28.

Our dedicated staff has been working diligently on developing learning supports and supplemental services to help students stay engaged in learning during the extended break. The at-home learning options and resources are being designed so families have easy to implement educational activities. The focus will be on learning and staying engaged, not on points or grades. This plan will commence on Wednesday, April 1.

## **Communication to 7-12 Grade Students and Families**

On March 30-31, each homeroom teacher will begin making initial phone calls to each family. They will share with families that further communication will be available from the homeroom google classroom, email, or teacher phone call as need arises.

Work is being done at both the state and district level to ensure that our high school seniors graduate on time with the credits they need to transition to the next phase of their lives. This work is also focusing on providing students in grades 9-11 with what they need to remain on track to graduate in future years.

## **Communication to K-6 Grade Students and Families**

On March 30-31, each classroom teacher will begin making initial phone calls to each family. They will share with families in the phone call to look for communication from the teacher through their individual classroom formats.

## **Special Education and Speech Services**

On March 30-31, our Special Education and Speech Service Professionals will also be making direct contact with students and families that they serve.

## **Counseling and Social/Emotional Support**

We are currently collaborating with Mid-Columbia Center for Living to start a support phone line, during designated times, for anyone in our District (students, parents, grandparents, etc.) to call to access counseling support. Those that will be answering the calls will be familiar with our school and students. They will be able to support individuals or families with resources or to access services. I will communicate more information regarding this service to you by April 1.

## **General Phone Hotline**

We have also set up a phone hotline for parents or students to call if they are having difficulty connecting with teachers or if they have general questions. This hotline will be available starting, March 30, Monday-Thursday from 11:00 am-1:00 pm. You can call 541-565-3500 and the call will be answered remotely. You can also leave a message and we will get back to you on the same day that you call.

We will be in touch with you again after spring break has concluded. Until then, please take care of yourselves, follow social distancing guidelines, and be kind to one another. We are all in this together.

Sincerely,

Wes Owens