

# Manhattan School District 114

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“Where We Succeed Together”

## STATEWIDE MANDATORY SCHOOL CLOSURES MARCH 17, 2020 UPDATE

March 17, 2020

Dear Manhattan SD114 Families,

Thank you for your extraordinary support over the past several days, as we have worked together to protect our community during the growing coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. As we already know, Governor JB Pritzker has declared mandatory school closures for all schools effective Tuesday, March 17. Currently, we anticipate reopening on April 6 after our scheduled spring break.

During the school closure, we will have at least one administrative staff member at the district office, located at Wilson Creek Elementary, from 8:00am - 1:00pm, in case families need our assistance. If you need assistance and cannot come to the district office during these hours, please contact us and we will schedule a time to meet with you.

During this time while all of our buildings are closed, every one of them is being deep cleaned and sanitized from the ceilings to the floors, even the walls. If you need to contact the District, I have provided contact information below for your reference.

We are committed to keeping students engaged in their learning during this statewide school closure. Please visit our website to access the [At-Home Learning Resources](#) that are now available. Students are encouraged to begin to engage in the activities. Teachers are also checking email daily, so please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher with questions.

To supplement these services, we encourage you to engage your children in other free, online educational activities, many of which are listed on the At-Home Learning Resources page. The Illinois State Board of Education has also compiled a library of resources at [www.isbe.net/keeplearning](http://www.isbe.net/keeplearning).

Concern over this new virus can make children anxious. It is very important to remember that children look to adults for guidance on how to react to stressful events. If adults seem overly worried, children's anxiety may rise. The National Association of School Psychologists has additional guidelines about talking to children about COVID-19 at [https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource).

Our local, state and federal officials have recommended social distancing as much as possible by staying home with our own immediate family and not promoting or hosting events that bring groups together. This may be difficult for our children to understand that play dates and other social gatherings are not recommended at this time; however, it is the right thing to do, to do our part to mitigate the spread of the virus. I do hope that the weather allows you to spend some time outdoors, as this will probably be the only activity available to families.

Finally, as a reminder, we will be providing meals beginning tomorrow.

**Meal Distribution Plan:**

- **On Mondays, lunches for Monday/Tuesday will be picked up at Wilson Creek Elementary between the hours of 10:30am and 12:30pm.** This will include a hot lunch for Monday, and a cold lunch for Tuesday.
- **On Wednesdays, lunches for Wednesday/Thursday/Friday will be picked up at Wilson Creek Elementary between the hours of 10:30am-12:30pm.** This includes a hot lunch on Wednesday, cold lunch for Thursday & Friday.
- If you need the lunches and are unable to drive to Wilson Creek to pick up lunches on these two distribution days, please contact the district office and speak with Mrs. Sarah Bancsy **(815-531-3326) or (815-351-6941)**. Mrs. Bancsy will take down your number, your address, and the number of lunches for your child(ren), and members of the school administration will deliver them to you on those dates.

We appreciate your partnership and continued support during this time of uncertainty.

Sincerely,

Mr. Rusty Ragon  
Superintendent

**Mr. Rusty Ragon**  
**Superintendent**

Office: 815-531-3305  
Cell: 815-351-6941

**Mrs. Sarah Bancsy**  
**District Bookkeeper**  
**Supt. Secretary**

Office: 815-531-3326  
Cell: 708-712-5704

**Mrs. Kristen Morpew**  
**Director Curriculum &**  
**Instruction**

Office: 815-531-3358  
Cell: 708-214-5194

**Mrs. Melissa Hester**  
**Director Special**  
**Education**

Office: 815-531-3349  
Cell: 815-793-0085

**Mrs. Kim Maher**  
**Principal**  
**Wilson Creek**

Office: 815-531-3301  
Cell: 708-906-6403

**Mr. Ryan McWilliams**  
**Principal**  
**Anna McDonald**

Office: 815-531-3101  
Cell: 815-405-2386

**Dr. Ron Pacheco**  
**Principal**  
**Manhattan Junior High**

Office: 815-531-3201  
Cell: 815-378-9558