



Please read this important message from Gilbert Community Schools

Update on COVID-19 (March 16, 2020)

On Sunday, Governor Kim Reynolds announced a recommendation that all schools in the state of Iowa closes for a period of four weeks to help prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). The Gilbert Community School District will adhere to this recommendation. This closure will officially start March 18 - April 12.

This closure affects all-district programming, including before-and-after school activities, all athletic and extracurricular practices and competitions, and all weekend events. If you need to contact the school for any reason, the district office will remain open from 8:00 a.m. to noon. These hours may change due to the fluidity of the situation. Please do not hesitate to call before stopping in, at 232-3740 or email Lindsey Beecher beecherl@gilbertcsd.org or Carrie Clark clarkc@gilbertcsd.org We are here to answer any question or concern.

FAQ's:

When will students be returning to school?

As of right now, students will be returning on Monday, April 13. This was originally a full professional development day but will now be a student contact day.

Can I come and get something that my student left at school?

If there is anything that needs to be picked up, stop in the district office Tuesday, March 17th. We will make sure someone is available to help. If Tuesday does not work for you please contact the district office or your building administrator. Buildings will be locked down to all but essential employees after that.

Will gyms or other spaces be available for use during the closure?

All buildings will be closed for use during the COVID-19 closure.

If my student is in Drivers Ed, will they still be driving during the school day?

This would be a question for the privatized instructor. The school is not part of this discussion.

Will Kids Club be open?

Kids Club will close tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17th at 4:00 and will reopen on Monday, April 13th.

Will the school be providing online learning for students?

When it comes to online learning, we can not ensure equity for all students. Teachers will not be providing direct instruction and specific lessons. We are providing a list of resources that can be used at home. Here is the [link](#). On social media, a number of staff members have posted ideas for while students are at home. There are some great ideas to consider.

We know the importance of reading each day. We would encourage students to read each and every day. After reading, discuss together what your child read. This is for any age.

For our younger students, read together as a family. Talk about the story, make predictions, ask questions of each other, come up with a different ending to the story.

Write letters to family and friends.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Carrie Clark, your building principal, and/or your child's classroom teacher. We are here to support you in whatever you may need.

How do I talk to my child about COVID-19?

We don't have all the answers but are very willing to help. Adults are feeling anxious about what is happening in our world today. Children are feeling the same way but may not be sure how to handle or express these feelings. Our school counselors will be sending out some information on ways to handle your child(ren)'s thoughts and feelings.

My high school student is not going to be in school for four weeks, how will they be ready for college? How will my kindergartener be ready for 1st grade etc...?

We have AMAZING students. They are hard-working and will be fine. The lessons that we model and teach our students throughout this time will shape the people that they will become. All families will have different needs during this time. Some families will be expecting older siblings to help with childcare. Some families will be dealing with the COVID-19 virus. Some families will be dealing with the stress of this whole situation. We are here to help with the questions students may have. Please remember we are not the only district with these same questions. Our entire country is working through this together.

For college courses, students will follow instructions from their specific instructors. For AP, we will follow the instructions we are given from the College Board. Here is the [link](#).

Finally, we know that this school closure will have an enormous impact on our students and families in the coming weeks. Gilbert is proud to say Every Student. Every Day.

Right now our focus is Every Family. Every Day.

We will continue to keep you updated as more information becomes available and decisions are announced. Please stay healthy as we work through this incredibly challenging time in our community, state, and nation.

If your family is in need of anything please reach out, we have resources available to support in lots of different ways. We're all in this together.

Lindsey Beecher

Superintendent, Gilbert Community Schools