

# COVID-19/Remote Learning Update

River Forest District 90

April 7, 2020

# COVID-19 Response Overview

- E-Learning Plan submission verified by West 40 Intermediate Service Center (ISC)
- Faculty professional development – 3/12
- Students trained for E-Learning and elementary iPads deployed – 3/13
- D90 E-Learning launch – 3/16
- District Office and schools closed to public, remote business operations begin – 3/16

# Free/Reduced Lunch Provisions

- District 90 does not participate in the National School Lunch program. However, we are offering lunches based on need.
- Each day during the week of March 16 – 20, we scheduled a distribution of store-bought perishable boxed lunches.
- For the weeks from March 30<sup>th</sup> forward, District 90 will be partnering with District 200 for lunch service. District 200 packages five-days worth of a combination of perishable and non-perishable foods for families. Weekly delivery to homes began yesterday in partnership with D90 bus contractor.
- District 200 will not be charging District 90, allowing District 200 to include the lunches on their NSLP claim.

# Facilities Cleaning/Maintenance

- Engineers and custodial staff have sanitized each school building with hospital grade disinfectants. From a cleaning standpoint, each building was considered complete on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Starting on March 30, custodial crews were told to shelter in place at home, while the Engineers were limited to building checks each day.
- The Engineers did not come into contact with anyone during the two day period (March 30 – 31) that faculty and staff were allowed back into the building for materials, though they supervised the facilities.
- The plan is for all employees except Engineers to stay out of buildings for the subsequent 15 days to allow any germs to die. Engineers will do building checks regularly.
- Once Governor's order is lifted, crews will return to re-sanitize buildings.

# Human Resource Matters

- All Human Resource functions continue unabated at this time.
- Priorities include:
  - monitoring employee absence needs
  - ensuring employee leave compliance
  - managing hiring processes
  - coordinating ongoing training details for impacted employee groups
- Main concern is identifying and screening teaching candidates for planned vacancies

# Finance/Business Operations

- All Finance/Business office staff have been told to shelter in place and work from home as much as possible.
- All Finance/Business Operations are being performed either remotely or at the District Office using a staggered work schedule. No more than two employees (one on each floor) are allowed in the District Office at one time.
- Payroll and Accounts Payable are being processed on their normal schedule.
- At this point, the District remains on schedule for its July 1 Life Safety Bond sale and its summer construction projects.

# Board Governance/Oversight

- Board of Education will continue to meet during the school closures, using virtual platform(s).
- Ongoing Board of Education leadership remains as critical as ever in charting direction for the District.
- In addition, certain business functions must be authorized by the Board of Education (such as approval of payments).
- Board of Education and COW Meetings also provide an important source of information for families, staff and community members, particularly during times of duress.

# Remote Learning Overview

- “Social emotional context with an academic focus”
- Over two weeks of E-Learning/Remote Learning completed
- E-Learning Plan converted to Remote Learning Plan after ISBE guidance released March 27
- First D90 “Remote Learning Planning Day” was held April 1. Next date is scheduled for April 14. ISBE allows up to five dates, to be used as necessary.
- Ongoing teacher collaboration and planning
- Instructional supports from specialists, teacher leaders, school and District administrators



# Technology/Internet Access

- K-4 iPads distributed March 13
- Google Hangout for staff implementation
- Student and Teacher home internet access issues identified
  - Sprint contract for HotSpots
- Intermittent Schoology (5-8) and SeeSaw (K-4) service issues
- Parent tech support via [PowerSchool@district90.org](mailto:PowerSchool@district90.org)
- Staff support via usual [helpdesk@district90.org](mailto:helpdesk@district90.org)
- Zoom adoption/training on April 1
  - Google Hangout for student use potential, pending developments
- District phone fiber backbone migration postponed until 5/1/20
- Admin iPhone FirstNet migration completed

# Special Ed./Related Services

- Accommodations made for many IEP students in general education setting, with special education teacher assistance
- Contingent on IEP, some students receiving supports via one-to-one or small group tele-therapy
- Small group tele-therapy requires parent authorization/waiver to ensure compliance with student confidentiality and privacy laws
- Related service providers also continuing to serve students, using student-specific modalities
- Teacher assistants have completed substantial online training programs for professional development on special education-specific issues

# English Learner Considerations

- Learning needs continue to be addressed through Transitional Program of Instruction (TPI)
- EL teachers collaborate with grade level teams to adjust instruction for students
- Continued use of targeted instructional supports and strategies that match different levels of language acquisition
- EL students have daily opportunities to engage in both English and home language
- EL students have instructional plans tailored to individual language needs
- Support provided through individual and small group learning sessions

# Communications/Outreach

- Ongoing outreach to D90 community, including families, faculty, staff, community partners, private schools partners
- Outreach channels include School Messenger notices, social media entries, and website updates (news & alert banner)
- Regular and ongoing contact with communication counterparts at D200, D97, and Assistant to the Village Administrator
- Finalizing a Remote Learning/Coronavirus “Information Center” webpage for District website

# Instruction: Grading

- Principle of “no educational harm to any child”
- Focus on continuation of learning and providing flexibility about how students demonstrate progress
- D90 using ISBE recommendation for “Pass or Incomplete” grading approach
- Students should have the opportunity to redo, make up, or re-submit work in order to show learning
- Students will still be provided with teacher direction/reinforcement about academic performance through both formal and informal feedback

# Instruction: Content Delivery

- Primary goal is for instruction that 1) focuses on critical learning standards, and 2) minimizes learning loss
- Active student engagement, as appropriate for the age of the child
- Access to both digital and non-digital content
- Instructional activities and assignments should be flexible and offer options for learners
- Role of independent reading is integral
- Focus on consistency of learning and value of routines
- Social emotional needs of students must remain the highest priority

# Instruction: Virtual Lessons

- District has adopted use of Zoom as main video conferencing platform
- Zoom selected for student data privacy/confidentiality protocols
- Recent security concerns with Zoom can largely be avoided through the use of “waiting room” access to virtual classes
- Recorded instruction is currently preferred over “real-time” instruction, especially at elementary level
- Recorded instruction offers flexibility for learners/families, and the ability to watch a lesson again
- Teacher discretion about appropriateness of recorded vs. real-time lessons, based on learner factors

# Ongoing Staff Development

- Ongoing staff development will be necessary to ensure that teachers have the skillsets to use platforms with confidence
- Opportunities for teacher collaboration and planning will become increasingly important as closure(s) continue
- Faculty have been extraordinary in willingness to learn new technology, provide targeted instruction for students, communicate with families. District 90 has the best and most dedicated faculty to be found anywhere! They must be supported to do this important work.
- ISBE allows for up to 5 “Remote Planning Days” for teachers and administrators to train, collaborate, and plan for instruction. Next D90 Remote Planning Day scheduled for April 14, with another to be finalized at the very end of April.



# THANK YOU!

- Hard-working District 90 faculty and staff
- Committed District 90 administrative team
- Supportive District 90 Board of Education
- Dedicated D90 students
- Collaborative families
- Village of River Forest community and RF partner organizations

# Questions?

*Thank You!*