

**Elementary**

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**South Nodaway R-IV Elementary & High Schools**

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**High School**

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South Nodaway Parents and Patrons,

Governor Parsons in conjunction with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recently announced the mandated school closure for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Remote and alternative education opportunities will continue until we reach the end of our locally board-approved calendar on May 14th. We will continue to be creative, innovative and persistent in their pursuit to reach students with some kind of academic opportunity. Meals will continue for free for the remainder of the semester ending on the aforementioned May 14th.

Currently, our teachers are providing many resources on our websites, via email or using Google Classroom and other platforms. It is important to understand that we are not trying to replicate normal school and we won't be covering all of the curriculum standards. That would not be possible and would likely lead to frustration for students, parents and teachers alike. Our purpose in continuing to offer and promote these activities and resources is to reduce academic slide and keep students engaged during the closure.

The semester will officially retroactively be ended simultaneously with the third quarter. The elementary students (K-2) will use their standard-based grade for 3rd quarter as their semester grade. However, for grades 3 -12 we have not locked third quarter grades. We cannot take credit for a 4th quarter that did not officially happen so in an effort to give every student ample opportunity to improve their grades teachers will be offering extra-credit opportunities for the 3rd quarter to be counted as their semester grade. These will not be at the rigor typical of traditional school but will require some time and effort. By taking advantage of this opportunity students will be able to improve their semester grade but not do any harm to it.

All students who are enrolled in a LAUNCH online course for the Spring semester will continue with those courses as normal. Seniors need to have coursework completed by May 1st, and everyone else by May 14th.

All seniors that are signed up for A+ will be notified in the near future of their status. State standards have been adjusted due to the Covid-19 pandemic and we look for additional guidance from the state after the official state-wide school closure.

DESE has exempted students from taking MAP & EOC exams that are associated with the grade-level they were in when school closures came into effect.

Per the Missouri State High School Activities Association the spring seasons will be canceled.

We are working on a plan for an outdoor and or virtual graduation. Be watching for more information in the near future.

We strongly encourage you to continue making use of the resources and activities our teachers are posting and sharing. It is very important to remember that children look to adults for guidance on how to react to stressful events. Acknowledging some level of concern, without panicking, is appropriate and can result in taking the

necessary actions that reduce the risk of illness. Teaching children positive preventive measures, talking with them about their fears, and giving them a sense of some control over their risk of infection can help reduce anxiety. This is also a tremendous opportunity for adults to model for children problem-solving, flexibility, and compassion as we all work through adjusting daily schedules, balancing work and other activities, getting creative about how we spend time, processing new information from authorities, and connecting and supporting friends and family members in new ways.

We leave you with this...

A man's favorite donkey falls into a deep precipice. He can't pull it out no matter how hard he tries. He therefore decides to bury it alive. Soil is poured onto the donkey from above. The donkey feels the load, shakes it off, and steps on it. More soil is poured. Again the donkey stubbornly shakes it off and steps up. The more the load was poured, the higher it rose. By noon, the donkey stepped out of the pit and was grazing in green pastures.

We may feel like we are all stuck in a deep pit right now, but if we take it day by day and battle by battle, we will conquer this and come out stronger for it! Stay strong Longhorns!

South Nodaway Administration