



## Closure for Planning

Dear Families,

Today, Governor Tim Walz and Education Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker announced that all Minnesota public schools will close to students starting Wednesday, March 18, 2020 with the plan to resume instruction on Monday, March 30, 2020. **Although Nerstrand School was scheduled to begin classes again on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, we will not be in session that day.**

During the school closure for students, Nerstrand School will be joining school districts and charter schools across the state to create plans to equitably distribute distance learning to our students should we need to close schools statewide for a longer period of time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Minnesota Department of Education is defining distance learning to mean that a student receives daily interaction with their licensed teacher(s) and appropriate educational materials. Starting March 30, 2020, per the instruction from the Minnesota Department of Education, student learning will continue for the rest of the school year.

Our educators will be giving thoughtful planning to our distance learning plan, offering careful consideration for students in a variety of areas, including students receiving special education services, multilingual learners, students experiencing homelessness, and students who rely on meals served at school.

Once our distance learning plan is finalized we will communicate the plan to families through email and robo calls.

### Care for Children of Families of Emergency Workers

Governor Walz has specifically required schools to provide care for students whose families are part of our health care and emergency workforce.

**If families work in the following areas, please reach out to us to let us know if you will need your children to attend school or after school care during this time.**

- Healthcare staff as described below:
- Health care providers and systems, including hospitals and clinics
- Post-acute and long-term care facilities, including nursing and assisted living facilities
- Other health systems and organizations, such as:
  - o Home Care workers
  - o Personal Care Assistants
  - o Ambulance/emergency
  - o Direct Care and Treatment

Other emergency staff, including:

- First responders
- Firefighters
- Personnel providing correctional services
- Essential Court personnel
- Minnesota State Veterans Homes staff
- State and local public health agency employees
- MNsure Navigators
- County financial/eligibility workers
- County case managers
- Or any county staff in emergency management or health and human services

As always, our first priority is the safety and well-being of our students. We also want to ensure every child has access to the education they need and deserve.

We will continue to keep you informed as we navigate COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Maggie Kiley