

Dear Students, Parents, Staff, and Community Members,

March 13, 2020

Earlier this morning the school district superintendents and other school leaders in our region met together to discuss a variety of issues related to COVID-19 and its impact in our state, nation and the world. We also, of course, discussed its impact on, and implications for, K-12 education in Washington State.

As you are well aware, earlier this week our Governor, Jay Inslee, announced a proclamation that required the closure of all school districts in King, Pierce and Shohomish counties and now **(all schools in the state including the Rosalia School District)** – to take effect as of midnight on Monday, March 16 and continuing through at least midnight on Friday, April 24.

These decisions are made out of an abundance of caution, and are based on scientific recommendations that indicate the reduction of social interactions – or said another way, increasing social distancing – can ultimately have a beneficial impact on slowing the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

The authority to make such broad decisions rests with both the Governor's emergency powers and with the local regional health district), we will work closely with all of you as we chart a path forward.

We are committed to working together to the extent possible to determine how we can best attend to the nutritional needs of students; to child care needs for students and families who will need that; and whether we will be able to provide any continued educational opportunities in a way that is equitable for all the students and families we serve. We will be working diligently on these challenges and get more information out to you on Monday.

As COVID-19 evolves, it affects all of us. We are all learning about it, and we appreciate that we all come together to do that in collaborative and respectful ways – respecting that disruptions that may occur in the short term will have a beneficial effect in the longer term – for everyone. I will assuredly keep you updated with all relevant information and, while I recognize that many questions will occur, we are committed to addressing each of those to the best of our ability and resources.

In advance, thank you for always giving one another grace – and especially for doing so during an unprecedented challenge such as this public health issue.

Sincerely,

Rick Linehan, Superintendent