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## St. John – Hudson USD 350

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March 17, 2020

Dear USD 350 School Community,

Today Governor Laura Kelly announced that schools in Kansas will be essentially closed through the end of the current school year because of the threat of the spread of the Coronavirus. This news hit me like a ton of bricks today and I'm sure it is surprising to you all as well. It is important to note that this will not just be a perpetual snow day. We are not just turning off the lights and going home for the year. However, things will definitely look different for our school staff, students, and entire community through end of May.

We have been discussing contingency plans for several days now, including how we can meet the ongoing learning needs of our students and provide breakfast and lunch for our students. Our staff and board of education are also working on other critical issues, such as what this means for our seniors, how this will affect next school year and what impact this will have on our employees. We will provide updates on these issues as soon as the information is available.

It will take time to formulate a workable plan for ensuring all students have the opportunity to learn for the remainder of the school year. At this point, we are going to extend spring break for students through March 27<sup>th</sup>. **The will be no school for students March 23<sup>rd</sup> through March 27<sup>th</sup>.** During the next week, staff will be working on plans to educate kids in a virtual setting, in small groups, or at alternative locations.

I know you all have questions about what is going to happen moving forward. However, we do not have firm answers for you at this time. We will be working hard on this, but it is not anticipated that we will have any answers until late next week. As soon as we have information to share, we will do so. Critical updates will also be sent out via the automated SchoolMessenger system. **You can expect that we will communicate specifics of our plan to parents by March 26<sup>th</sup>.**

As a reminder, this school closure is in response to the current public health crisis. The focus should remain on preventing the spread the coronavirus, or COVID-19 as it is also referred to. Please be mindful of the following:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing (cough/sneeze into your sleeve or a tissue).
- Please keep sick children at home.
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.

Follow additional guidance from: [National Center for Disease Control](#) (CDC), and [Kansas Department of Health and Environment](#) (KDHE)

Respectfully,

Josh Meyer, Superintendent

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