



INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 712

MOUNTAIN IRON-BUHL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Superintendent, Dr. Reggie Engebritson | Director of Teaching and Learning, Kristi Berlin

Principal, James Jotter | Dean of Students, Don Burke

March 27, 2020

Dear Students and Parents

Distance Learning begins in Minnesota on March 30. We will continue offering instruction through May 4 unless the governor extends this period. We will still have our spring break from April 9-13, so school staff will not be working on those days. Our school district is working to make sure students have the opportunity to continue their learning at home, whether this is online, through packets of learning activities, or a combination of the two. Teachers have been preparing for the last two weeks to help guide students and parents through this new process.

This will be a partnership between teachers, students, and families.

It is important that we communicate with each other and support each other through this process.

Grades

Students will be graded in a different manner for grades 4-12 for the fourth quarter and the final semester grade. Instead of letter grades, students will be awarded a P (Pass), I (In progress), or NP (No Pass). Because we are experiencing so many changes in our lives right now and not all students will have the same access to school materials, we want to make sure all students have an opportunity to reach the same grades and not have their GPA negatively impacted due to these circumstances. College credit classes will be for letter grades as required by the community colleges.

Learning Materials

Learning Materials will be delivered through email, learning management systems, and through deliveries to the home on our bus routes. If you have any questions about how school materials are coming to you, reach out to your teacher.

Communication

The communication between families and teachers will be necessary for student success. We need families to tell teachers if they are overwhelmed or cannot complete assignments. We also want families to tell teachers if they want additional work for students to work on. Communicate early and often to make sure we are providing you the assistance you need to help your children. If you are not able to reach the teacher or if you encounter an emergency situation, such as an illness, please contact the school office so the principal can assist you in communicating with the teachers.

Attendance

Student attendance will be based on their interactions with teachers and the work they are completing and returning. If a student is not regularly completing assignments or logging in with teachers, the schools will be in contact with the family to get them back on track.

SCHOOL BOARD

Chuck Bainter | Jason Gellerstedt | Jeremy Jesch | Lisa Kvas | Jennifer Tiedeman | Jesse White |
Amy Winans

Meal Delivery Information

Starting the week of March 30th, meals will now be delivered to bus stops instead of people's homes. Meals will be dropped off at your normal bus stop at the normal time your child would typically get off the bus. This will happen on **Tuesday** and **Thursday** of each week (no longer a daily occurrence) with the exception of Easter Break (**April 9-13**) when no meals will be delivered or available as that was a scheduled break. Please make sure to email Anni Grahek at agrahek@isd712.org or contact her by phone at (218) 735-8271 X1005 if you are anticipating you will need a lunch for your student(s). If you already are receiving lunch, you don't need to indicate that again. Just be prepared to pick that up at your child's meal at their normal drop off location in the afternoon.

Again, please contact the office if you have any questions, concerns, or would like any additional resources.

Thank you!

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Tips to be successful when you are forced to stay home:

- *Keep your school routines even though you are at home.*
 - *Get yourself dressed and ready to go each day.*
 - *Do schoolwork at your normal school time.*
 - *Communicate with teachers often - ask for help if needed*
 - *Do schoolwork in your study space - not in bed or on the couch!*
 - *Stick to the sleep/wake-up schedule you would have if you were going to school.*
 - *Exercise at home - get creative!*
- *Keep doing your chores.*
- *Facetime or call friends to maintain social connections.*
- *Find new and different hobbies you can do at home.*
- *Moderate your intake of news and social media to help manage stress.*
- *Get outside to get fresh air every day.*

Guide to Internet Access During COVID-19

With access to the Internet becoming more important every day, we've compiled resources to support students and families.

Can I get no cost Internet during the Covid-19 outbreak?

You can get no-cost, in-home internet for up to two months during the new coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak if you qualify for certain low-income internet programs or have a student living in your household. Here's a list of the internet providers offering limited, no-cost internet services during the outbreak.

- Charter Spectrum
 - Call 1-844-488-8395 in the Duluth Area.
 - No cost for 60 days for households with K-12 or college students in the household
- AT&T
 - Two months of free service when ordering AT&T Access program. It will be \$5/mo or \$10/mo thereafter, depending on your speed.
 - Need proof of SNAP benefits or participation in Free & Reduced Lunch Program
 - <https://www.att.com/shop/internet/access/index.html?source=ECmj0000000000mbU&wtExtndSource=access#!//#%2F>

How do I get proof of Free & Reduced Lunch Program participation?

Please contact your ISD 2142 school office for proof of participation in the free and reduced lunch program.

My student(s) was not receiving free or reduced lunch. How do I qualify for the Free & Reduced Lunch Program during the Covid-19 outbreak?

If your students are receiving free lunch and breakfast from your ISD 2142 school, you can receive a letter of proof of participation in the free and reduced lunch program.

Will my internet data cap stay the same during the COVID-19 outbreak?

Many providers are waiving data caps and overage charges until May.

At the time of this letter, these internet providers have temporarily paused their data caps:

- AT&T
- CenturyLink
- Comcast Xfinity (until mid-May)
- Mediacom (until May 15)

Verizon is adding 15 GB of data across nearly all of their plans, to be used between 03/25/2020 and 04/30/2020. To be eligible, you must be on a qualifying postpaid (unlimited or shared), Jetpack or prepaid plan.