



St. Charles Public Schools

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St. Charles, MN 55972
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March 15, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

You may have heard by now that Governor Walz issued an Executive Order to temporarily close Minnesota schools from Wednesday, March 18th through Friday, March 27th. You can view his Executive Order for yourself at: https://mn.gov/governor/assets/EO%2020-02%20Final_tcm1055-423073.pdf.

You may have also heard that a number of schools in the area are closing their doors on Monday March 16th and Tuesday, March 17th.

St. Charles Public Schools **WILL BE OPEN** for business as usual on Monday, March 16th and Tuesday, March 17th. Per the Governor's Order, we **WILL BE CLOSED** from Wednesday, March 18th through Friday, March 27th.

All in-person school-sponsored activities that are scheduled during the statewide school closure period will be suspended from March 18th through March 27th until in-person school resumes on March 30th.

Please note that the Governor's Executive Order was issued to provide all school districts in the State of Minnesota time to plan for providing student instructional and community services in the wake of a COVID-19 inspired forced extended closure of schools. We understand that this creates an inconvenience for many of our families. Please understand that we do not have a choice in this matter.

The current plan for schools barring any further directives from the Governor or other agencies is to reopen for business as usual on March 30th.

The guidance, advice, and directives we receive from higher powers appears to change on a daily basis. There are a number of unknowns surrounding COVID-19. The decisions being made and the directives that are being issued are being done so in the best interests of trying to protect human beings.

We will work to keep you updated on how changes in guidance, advice and directives affects our schools and the services we provide for your children.

As the COVID-19 situation evolves, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) makes regular updates to their website. We are keeping ourselves updated and are following their advice. You can learn more about strategies to slow the spread of COVID-19, and monitor MDH's most current information for schools and childcare settings by visiting their website at: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools.html>.

Thanks for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

Jeff Apse
Superintendent of Schools