

Dear Branson Pirate Community,

Due to the executive order by Governor Parson on April 9th, all Missouri public schools will remain closed through the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year. We appreciate Governor Parson's leadership and his decision to protect our students, our communities and our state from the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The district's mission statement is "A Community Committed to Learning". This statement is true now more than ever before. Between today and May 15th, teaching and learning will continue, as it has the past three weeks, with teacher calls, video conferencing, posted lessons and learning packets mailed home to our PreK-6 students. I'm most heartbroken for our senior class and the abrupt end to their high school experience. The district is committed to honoring this amazing group. There will be a time when it will be safe for everyone to gather and celebrate the achievements of the class of 2020.

In the coming days, the administrative team, in conjunction with the board of education, will discuss and make decisions on the best process to "officially" end the school year. This will include opportunities for teachers to access classrooms and the best strategy and timeline for allowing students and families to retrieve personal items. There will be discussions about a whole host of other questions including food distribution, childcare and summer school. Because of these uncertain times, our ability to be flexible in our approach is key to our success as we navigate these uncharted waters.

Please know, I'm praying for you, our students, the Branson community and our nation. We'll get through this and be a stronger "learning community". For now, please take care of yourself, your families, and be diligent about staying connected to your students and your school.

Sincerely,

Brad Swofford, Ed.D.  
Superintendent