

Moberly Public

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School District

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"Accredited with Distinction"

Mrs. Parisa Stoddard

Assistant Superintendent
Curriculum & Instruction

Dr. Matthew S. Miller

Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Dustin Fanning

Assistant Superintendent
Human Resources & Special Programs

I would like to thank you for your kindness and support over the past several days as we have navigated one of the most challenging times in the history of our nation. The outreach from individuals and groups offering support for members of our leadership team and students has been uplifting and reinforce how our community pulls together to support each other.

After meetings and conference calls with stakeholders across the nation, state, district, and community, including medical professionals, we have **made a decision to proactively close all schools in the Moberly School District in response to the COVID-19 pandemic beginning tomorrow Wednesday, March 18 through Friday, April 3.** All school activities, including athletic and extracurricular practices and competitions, will be canceled during the time schools are closed. While closings and cancelations have become more commonplace, please know this has not been an easy decision.

Our schools serve as places of learning, but they also are sources of comfort, routine, support, and nutrition for the children in the community. Our staff has been diligently working on contingency plans to maintain support for students during the extended closure. Our staff will continue to work during the closure and we are committed to ensuring that their pay continues. We want staff to focus on students, their families, and staying healthy themselves. Staff will continue to ensure students have access to instructional resources and food, as well as social-emotional support. We are still developing the logistics of those plans, but we will use all communication channels to alert families about how to take advantage of these resources in the coming days and weeks, and provide frequent updates via the District website, texts, emails, and social media. The deep cleaning and sanitation process in all District buildings will continue during the closure.

While we may never know if these proactive measures were impactful in slowing the spread of COVID-19, we would be quite certain of the outcome if we didn't close and there was an outbreak that spread through our schools affecting our community. We are also keenly aware that this emergency closure will have a significant impact on our families, presenting a hardship and childcare challenges for many, but we feel it is a necessary step to aid in the welfare of our community in this unprecedented situation.

In the meantime, please follow the advice of our health officials. Practice proper handwashing and social distancing, but also be mindful that our children look to us for guidance. Model calm and help reassure them that the adults in their lives are doing everything in their power to keep them safe. Thank you for advocating for our students and thank you for being an unbelievably supportive community. Your trust means a great deal to our staff and administrators, and we are confident that we will get through this challenging time together.

Sincerely,

Matthew S. Miller Ed.D.
Superintendent