



WOODLAWN UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #209

300 NORTH CENTRAL LANE
WOODLAWN, ILLINOIS 62898
PH: 618.735.2631 FAX: 618.735.2032
WWW.WOODLAWNSCHOOLS.ORG

Eric Helbig, Superintendent



Woodlawn High School
300 North Central Lane
Woodlawn, IL 62898
PH: 618.735.2631
FAX: 618.735.2032

Eric Helbig
Principal



Woodlawn Grade School
301 South Central Lane
Woodlawn, IL 62898
PH: 618.735.2661
FAX: 618.735.2288

Sandra Kabat
Principal

March 16, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your extraordinary support over the past several days, as we have worked together to protect our community during the growing coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. To further safeguard Illinois from the spread of the virus, Governor JB Pritzker has declared mandatory school closures for all buildings, both public and private, serving pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students.

This mandatory closure takes effect Tuesday, March 17. Currently, we anticipate reopening on March 31.

A free sack lunch will be available to all students in grades K-12. Beginning on Wednesday, March 18, from 11:30-12pm, lunches for the remainder of the week can be picked up at Woodlawn Grade School. Sack lunches for the week of 3/23-3/27 can be picked up at WGS from 11:30-12pm on Monday, March 23. A pick up will also be available on Monday, March 30 at the same time. Please use the linked form to sign up for a lunch. <https://forms.gle/9kr3EDG5Snc46YBG6> Families need to be signed up by noon, March 17 to reserve a lunch. If you are unable to access the internet, you may also call 735-2631, ext. 319.

We are committed to keeping students engaged in their learning during this statewide school closure. Students were sent home today either with packets or on-line resources to help them stay engaged during this period. If your child was unable to bring his/her materials home, the materials may be picked up at school. Please call ahead to make arrangements. Staff will be available to answer student or parent questions by email. If you are unable to contact them in this manner, leave a message with your child's school.

Because of this unprecedented situation, Woodlawn High School is eliminating semester exams for the spring semester. Spring break will remain as scheduled, from April 6 – April 10. The final day of school is still scheduled for May 19.

To supplement these services, we encourage you to engage your children in other free, online educational activities. The Illinois State Board of Education has compiled a library of resources at www.isbe.net/keeplearning.

Concern over this new virus can make children anxious. It is very important to remember that children look to adults for guidance on how to react to stressful events. If adults seem overly worried, children's anxiety may rise. Adults should reassure children that health



WOODLAWN UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #209

300 NORTH CENTRAL LANE
WOODLAWN, ILLINOIS 62898
PH: 618.735.2631 FAX: 618.735.2032
WWW.WOODLAWNSCHOOLS.ORG

Eric Helbig, Superintendent



Woodlawn High School
300 North Central Lane
Woodlawn, IL 62898
PH: 618.735.2631
FAX: 618.735.2032

Eric Helbig
Principal



Woodlawn Grade School
301 South Central Lane
Woodlawn, IL 62898
PH: 618.735.2661
FAX: 618.735.2288

Sandra Kabat
Principal

and school officials are working hard to ensure that people throughout the country stay healthy.

Children also need factual, age-appropriate information about the potential seriousness of disease risk, so the focus of conversation should be concrete instructions about how to avoid infections and the spread of disease. Teaching children positive measures, talking with them about their fears, and giving them a sense of some control over their risk of infections can help reduce anxiety. Please talk with your children about precautions they can take to stay healthy, including:

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is best, especially if they are visibly dirty. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol is a suitable alternative. Consider showing your children one of these videos about proper hand washing technique: www.cdc.gov/handwashing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
- Stay home if you are able to stay home. Avoid travel if you can.

The National Association of School Psychologists has additional guidelines about talking to children about COVID-19 at [https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource).

We will continue to inform you as quickly as we can about any further changes to school services. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Eric Helbig, at ehelbig@woodlawnschools.org

We appreciate your partnership, and we will get through this together.

Sincerely,

Eric Helbig
Superintendent