



DESERT SKY MIDDLE SCHOOL

9850 E. Rankin Loop ~ Tucson, AZ 85747

520-879-2702 ~ 520-879-2701 fax

dsms.vail.k12.az.us

facebook.com/DesertSkyTucson

March 18, 2020

Dear Parents,

First and foremost, I hope that you are all taking care of yourselves and your families during this time and that all is well. While this is an event without precedent, we will respond to this challenge in the manner that we always do – with focus, with what is best for our students and our community, and with our typical every day support and care for each other.

As you are aware, Governor Doug Ducey has announced statewide school closures to take effect March 16th through March 27th. We acknowledge that our families are being impacted in many ways during this unprecedented time and that family routines may be different. Desert Sky Middle School and our staff will do our very best to provide your family support, while at the same time taking care of our own families' needs.

District leadership and teachers are working on plans to provide stability, connections, and general educational opportunities while students are at home. During the week of March 23rd, your child's teachers will be reaching out to students and their families via email or Schoology. In addition, on Wednesday the 25th, teachers will recommend activities, via schoology, to students while they are at home. The best way to contact your child's teachers during this time is via email. Please see the Desert Sky website for teacher email addresses.

Extracurricular activities have also been suspended at this time. We will reevaluate as this event evolves. Suspended activities include:

- Any school activities using facilities
- Athletics - Activity fees will be returned if athletics is fully cancelled for the fourth quarter
- Field trips or student/staff travel. EF Tours has been in contact with families registered for the New York/DC Trip
- Facility rentals - the District is working to cancel facilities rentals through the end of March
- Plays or performances
- Any athletic practices - All athletic practices have been suspended

Further, our Beyond Textbooks Parent Portal https://www.beyondtextbooks.org/Parent_Portal, has a list of resources that can also be accessed from home. There is no way to fully replicate

our school model into an online at-home model, but we will be providing general educational activities to keep students engaged during the closure.

We also recognize that many of our students may need support with breakfast and lunch, and some families may need support with food baskets. If you are in need of a food basket, please contact Jennifer Wright at wrightj@vailschooldistrict.org.

In addition, if your child has medication at school, please make arrangements to pick up prescriptions on Friday, March 20 from 2-3:30 p.m. Maxine Valdez, DSMS health aide, will be available in the front office.

We ask that you are patient with us as we do the best we can to continue to provide quality opportunities for your child to be engaged.

This is certainly a challenging time for all of us, but we know that the Vail community is strong. We will get through this time of uncertainty together. Please be sure to visit our website and check email for periodic updates. Feel free to contact me should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Katie Dabney
Principal
Desert Sky Middle School