



March 13, 2020

Good Afternoon,

I want to update you on Silverwood's response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Silverwood School Closed - Effective Monday, March 16

Yesterday Governor Inslee closed all schools in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties from March 17 through April 24. Now this afternoon, Bremerton, Central, North, and South Kitsap Schools announced they are closing from Monday, March 16, until Friday, April 24. Our schools join seven states and many major cities across the country that have closed their schools for weeks to months.

In an effort to coordinate with our local school districts and to aid our community's response to the pandemic, **Silverwood will be closed from March 16 until April 24**. This is a difficult decision, given how disruptive prolonged school closures will be on our families. At this time, however, we feel it is imperative that we follow the guidance from the Governor, health officials and local school districts.

I met with each of the classrooms to explain to the students what is happening at Silverwood. As usual, I used age-appropriate language to explain that we will be closed for a while – but also that the teachers and I look forward to seeing everyone again when we reopen. We will be cleaning out cubbies at school today. Students will come home with those items today in a manner similar to the last day of school before Winter Break. When we reopen, we will remind you to send those items back to school with your student.

Next Steps at Silverwood

All activities at Silverwood between now and April 24 are either delayed or cancelled. The Auction has been postponed until May 9. Parent-Teacher Conferences will not be held on campus. The Spring Maintenance Day and Young Author's Day will be delayed. We will communicate with you separately about each of these events.

As I have written previously, the teachers and I have been working for weeks to develop a plan in the event that distance learning would be necessary. We will be implementing our distance learning curriculum next week. Broadly, the plan will be to deliver to our families learning activities in each subject that can be accomplished during the week at home. Ideally, these packets would be distributed on Mondays to families.

The teachers and I will meet on Monday, March 16, to work out the details of this new education system. **You can expect an email from me with more information about distance learning by Tuesday mid-day.**

We are in uncharted territory with respect both to our response and the development of distance learning curriculum. I ask for your patience as we work out the kinks in this system. I want you to know that the teachers and I are committed to working with families so that, even if we cannot meet on campus for a month or two, the education of our students does not stop.

For now, take care of yourselves and your families. I will continue to communicate with you during our closure. Please do not hesitate to ask me questions.

I look forward to seeing you all again later in the Spring.



Jon Torgerson
Head of School
Silverwood School
(360) 697-7526
jon.torgerson@silverwoodschool.org

*At Silverwood School, we challenge our students to become confident, compassionate citizens
and skilled life-long learners – literate, motivated, and intellectually adventurous.*