

March 16, 2020

Dear Gilbert Public Schools Parents and Families,

I would first like to express my sincere gratitude for the support of our community as we take actions in support of statewide and nationwide efforts to minimize the potential spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus). The decision to temporarily close our schools was very carefully considered, and our goal continues to be protecting the best interests of our students, their families, our staff, and the community.

As you are most likely aware, yesterday, March 15, Governor Doug Ducey and Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman announced that all Arizona schools will be closed until March 27, 2020.

We continue to monitor this rapidly evolving situation and as we receive new information we will continue to make decisions in the best interests of our students, families, and staff. Please expect frequent updates via email, our website [www.gilbertschools.net/alerts](http://www.gilbertschools.net/alerts), and on social media.

I know there are questions regarding the next couple of weeks. We have provided some useful information below. Please be assured that we will be continuing to update you and I encourage you to regularly check our district website for updates [www.gilbertschools.net/alerts](http://www.gilbertschools.net/alerts). Also, we will be sharing updates on our [district Facebook page](#) and of course we will continue to communicate by email, along with text alerts.

Thank you again for your ongoing support as we work together to support the health of our students, families, and wider community.

Sincerely,

Shane McCord, Ed.D.

Gilbert Public Schools

## **Important Information for Parents and Families**

### ***District Operations***

All GPS schools are closed as of Tuesday, March 17. The length of the closure is still to be determined but will last at least through Friday, March 27. GPS is committed to keeping families informed and will update our community as carefully considered decisions are made. The District will remain operational throughout the school closures, however, all District and school offices will be closed to the public. The District has created a web page, [www.gilbertschools.net/alerts](http://www.gilbertschools.net/alerts), to keep our community updated, including frequently asked questions which we continue to update.

### ***Picking Up Student Medication, Musical Instruments, & Personal Belongings from School***

All school campuses will be open Tuesday, March 17 and Wednesday, March 18 between the hours of 8am and 3:30pm for parents or guardians to pick up any needed student medications, musical instruments, or personal belongings that are at the school. Please note, for picking up student medications you need to be the parent or guardian of the student. If you are unable to get to your student's school during these times please call your school directly during these hours. Schools will be closed after 3:30pm on Wednesday, March 18 due to ongoing deep cleaning activities.

### ***Pick-Up Meal Service***

GPS is providing free pick-up breakfasts and lunches for any child 18 years old and under, beginning Tuesday, March 17 at the following locations and times:

**Harris Elementary** - 1820 S. Harris Drive Breakfast: 7:30-8:30 AM; Lunch 11:30 AM-12:30 PM Monday thru Friday

**Meridian Elementary** - 3900 South Mountain Rd Breakfast: 7:30-8:30 AM; Lunch 11:30 AM-12:30 PM Monday thru Friday

**Mesquite Junior High** - 130 West Mesquite Breakfast: 7:30-8:30 AM; Lunch 11:30 AM-12:30 PM Monday thru Friday

**Greenfield Junior High** - 101 S. Greenfield Rd Breakfast: 7:30-8:30 AM; Lunch 11:30 AM-12:30 PM Monday thru Friday

**Highland Junior High** - 6915 E. Guadalupe Rd Breakfast: 7:30-8:30 AM; Lunch 11:30 AM-12:30 PM Monday thru Friday

**South Valley Junior High** - 2034 South Lindsay Road Breakfast: 7:30-8:30 AM; Lunch 11:30 AM-12:30 PM Monday thru Friday

### ***Athletics, Performing Arts, Field Trips and other Events***

During the time that schools are closed all athletic games, practices, performing arts events, school events, field trips, preschool, before and after school care, and facility rentals will be canceled. As the situation evolves we will continue to monitor this closely.

### ***Continued Education & Remote Learning***

The District is currently investigating possible long term options for remote learning for our students should they be needed. Future communications will report detailed information about when/if alternative learning environments are required.

In the meantime, we have created a resource that includes a wide-range of enrichment resources for all grade levels, which will be accessible on our website [www.gilbertschools.net](http://www.gilbertschools.net), as of Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Please note these are activities and materials for students and parents to support ongoing learning during the current school closures. These do not replace curriculum but instead are intended for enrichment and practice. Completion of any of these activities are not required and will not count towards any credits or grades. If the school closures last for an extended period of time, we will update our community regarding longer-term online learning opportunities.

### ***Preschool, Before and After Care, and other Community Education Programs***

During the time that schools are closed, preschool, before and after school care, facility rentals, enrichment programs, and Gilbert Youth Athletics will be canceled. As the situation evolves we will continue to monitor this closely.

Online registration for summer 2020 programs is still open and can be viewed on the district website [www.gilbertschools.net](http://www.gilbertschools.net).

### ***Special Education***

Our Special Education team will be in contact with families to either confirm or reschedule meetings. The District is currently investigating possible long term options for remote learning and services for our special education students appropriate beyond the initial closure period.

All preschool screenings are canceled and will be rescheduled for a time after school resumes.

*Gilbert Public Schools*