



School Closure Update  
March 24, 2020

Dear Parents, Families and Colleagues,

This afternoon, Governor Bullock announced an extension of the closure of all public schools in the State of Montana for an additional two weeks. This action extends school closure through Friday, April 10. Please note that this does not change our scheduled Spring Break which will occur next week, Monday, March 30, through Friday, April 3. Spring Break will occur as planned and remote learning will not be active next week. The following week, Monday, April 6 through Friday, April 10, will include a return to our current remote services environment as all Montana public schools are now to remain closed through Friday, April 10.

This evening, our Board of Trustees met online and made several important decisions that will provide our Helena Public Schools with additional flexibility during this challenging time. In addition, we are working to comply with Governor Bullock's directive in submitting a Remote Services Action Plan. This plan is currently being drafted and requires the approval of both our local Board and Governor Bullock. With approval, this plan would allow our schools to receive full funding and waive the in-person school days associated with school closure. A draft of our Remote Services Action Plan will be posted on our district website in the coming days.

Finally, should your child/children need to checkout a Chromebook device, please email your child's principal and a Chromebook will be cleaned, bagged and reserved. We are working to build a regular schedule for Chromebook checkout and/or opportunities to exchange devices that are not functioning as needed. Our next opportunity is expected to be this coming Friday (locations/time TBD). In the interim, please continue to reach out to your child's principal to request/reserve a device as needed.

Thank you again for your time, understanding and ongoing support. While these continue to be challenging times, it brings us great joy to continually connect with our students. Your support in allowing us to bridge this distance has been invaluable and is sincerely appreciated by all of us at the Helena Public Schools.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Ream".

Tyler Ream  
Superintendent, Helena Public Schools