

March 24, 2020--Dear Parents, Students, Staff, and Community,

As you have likely heard through the news media, all schools in Idaho are closed until April 20<sup>th</sup>. This extension means that NO students or non-staff individuals are allowed in our schools. Because we don't know to what extent our staff will be impacted by illness or exposure, we cannot assure you that it will be possible to answer phones or to respond to phone messages in a timely manner. For this reason, email will be the best way to communicate with staff. Email will be checked at least once on each weekday, *once spring break has ended*. Also, ALL communication updates from the district will be posted on the district website: [fruitlandschools.org](http://fruitlandschools.org). You will also receive separate information from your child's school.

Please read ALL of the following information on our extended closure:

**On Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**—which would have been students' first day back from spring break—we will begin providing distance education and meal service for our students. Distance education will be largely through electronic means (email, online programs, Google Docs, etc.), but will include paper assignments and homework when necessary. Please call (208-452-3595) and leave a message or email me if your student does not have access to the internet from home so we can plan for delivering educational services in another manner. Also, if you know a parent whose child does not have access, please ask the parent to call 208-452-3595 and leave a message so I can contact him/her to make plans.

On Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, you will receive detailed information from your child's school on how to access distance education.

I want to remind you that if you have a cell phone or other device, but not wifi access, our school wifi can be accessed from all school parking lots. **To log on, select FSD-GUEST. Password: schoolsout.**

**Lunches for all children, ages 1-18, at no charge—beginning Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>:**

We will be distributing free grab-and-go lunches in two ways. There will be on-site, outdoor pickup at Fruitland Elementary, on weekdays beginning March 31<sup>st</sup>, from 9:00 to 10:00 am. ALL students and children, ages 1 to 18, may pick up lunch. Because of federal requirements, parents may not pick up meals for children—the child must be physically present. Social distancing will be required: ALL children and adults must maintain six-foot distance from others who are not from their own household, and there can be no pushing or crowding.

We will also be delivering meals at all regular bus stops in the district. Bus times will be two hours after normal bus pickup times: for example, if the bus usually picks up your child at 7:20 am, meals will be delivered at 9:20 am in the same bus stop location. If there are multiple children at a stop, it is parents' responsibility to make sure that social distancing is observed and that there is no pushing or crowding: all children and adults must maintain six feet of distance from others who are not from their own household. Also, parents may not pick up meals for children; children must be physically present.

A third option for the meals is for children to be at Mesa Park or the Fruitland City Park (next to the post office) from 9:40 to 10:30 am on weekdays. Again, the child must be physically present and social distancing of 6 feet must be maintained.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

***I ask you to bear with us and be patient as we work to educate your children in this new and challenging situation. We will be learning a lot as we go, and will work hard to provide quality education for our students. Thank you for the support you have always given our district. We have never needed it more than now! Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns—Teresa Fabricius***