

Southwest Fountain School Corporation

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*Mr. Dan L. Foster, Ed.S.
Superintendent*

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March 19, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you and your family all well and staying safe from the virus. Please keep promoting social distancing as much as possible.

I am sure by now many of you have seen or heard the news that in a press conference today, Governor Holcomb has closed all Indiana schools until at least May 1st. As this information was not released to school corporations prior to the announcement, like you, our administrative team also needs time to evaluate exactly what this may mean and how to proceed.

One piece of information that I can share is that 2019-2020 state-required assessments will not be conducted. The Indiana Department of Education has provided us a letter to share with our families and it is included with this mailing.

Until our team is able to meet and receive further guidance from the Governor's office and/or the Department of Education, here are a few other things I can share at this time.

What does this mean to you?

*All campus facilities will now remain closed to all but essential personnel until at least May 1st.

*As time progresses, the COVID-19 virus situation in Indiana will continue to be monitored and Governor Holcomb will then make a decision as to whether to allow schools to open on May 1st or if they will remain closed for the remainder of this school year.

*Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. McCormick is working with her dedicated team, Governor Holcomb's team, and the State Board of Education as well as local schools to

ensure seniors receive their credits.

*On Thursday, March 12th, the Governor waived up to 20 days of the required 180 school day mandate. Monday and Tuesday of this week in addition to our originally planned two weeks after spring will be a portion of our 20 days. Governor Holcomb and Dr. McCormick did share in the press conference that with today's announcement that number may need to be adjusted due to the extended length of closure for schools.

*This closure includes all events, trips, and practices set to occur through at least April 30th.

*Given the fact that schools will not be permitted to open until at least May 1st and there has been no further guidance from the IHSAA, I would surmise that spring sports will most likely not occur this year or will be on extremely abbreviated schedules but it is too early to determine at this time.

*Also given the fact that schools will not be permitted to open until at least May 1st, but it is really unknown if that will be a reality, prom will not be held as scheduled on May 1st.

*It is too early for discussions and decisions with regards to the graduation ceremony as well.

*I will continue to work with Aramark (our food service provider) to extend our meals during the additional time (April 13th - April 30th) but this will also depend on waivers from both the federal and state.

*Seniors especially--I am sorry! I am sorry that your senior year has been hit with this unprecedented situation. You should be enjoying friends, school, spring sports, banquets, prom, etc. and yet, you find yourselves having to stay away from others and I can't imagine how this makes you feel. Please keep your chins up as this will make you better and stronger people when this is over.

*To all students--I, no--actually, WE miss you and we look forward to hopefully seeing you May 1st.

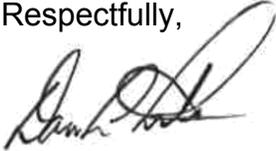
*Again, continue to practice social-distancing and, if necessary, please self-Quarantine (following guidelines set forth by the Fountain/Warren County Health Department).

I realize that with this information comes questions and I would surmise that some of the questions you have are the same questions we have for which we do not have answers to at this point. I will continue to provide you updates and information as it becomes

available with regards to the school closure.

Again, I am fully aware this may continue to present some challenges to our families, the decision from Governor Holcomb and his team has been reached with the ultimate safety of all students, staff, and the communities-at-large in mind.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan L. Foster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, prominent loop at the end.

Dan L. Foster, Ed.S.
Superintendent