



Willmar Public Schools (ISD 347) – District Office
Dr. Jeff Holm - Superintendent

Dear Families,

Today, Governor Tim Walz and Education Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker announced that all Minnesota public schools will close to students starting Wednesday, March 18, 2020 with the plan to resume instruction on Monday, March 30, 2020. Willmar Public Schools will be open for students and staff, operating as normal on Monday, March 16th and Tuesday, March 17th with the exception that after school adventures and SOAR program will be cancelled. If your child is ill or if your child is not ill but you feel it is best to keep them home, please contact your school's attendance line.

Cardinal Place will be open normal hours on Monday, March 16th and Tuesday, March 17th. Starting Wednesday, March 18th, as per the Governor's directive, Cardinal Place (school aged care) will only be available to children of healthcare staff and emergency workers. Please contact cardinalplace@willmar.k12.mn.us or call 320-231-8490 with questions or to arrange care.

During the school closure for students, Willmar Public Schools will be creating plans to equitably distribute distance learning to our students should we need to close schools statewide for a longer period due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Minnesota Department of Education is defining distance learning to mean that a student receives daily interaction with their licensed teacher(s) and appropriate educational materials. Starting March 30, 2020, per the instruction from the Minnesota Department of Education, student learning will continue for the rest of the school year in some format.

Our educators will be giving thoughtful planning to our distance learning plan, offering careful consideration for students in a variety of areas, including students receiving special education services, multilingual learners, students experiencing homelessness, and students who rely on meals served at school.

Once our distance learning plan is finalized we will communicate the plan to families via Messenger (phone/email) and on the Willmar Public Schools website at www.willmar.k12.mn.us

As always, our first priority is the safety and well-being of our students. We also want to ensure every child has access to the education they need and deserve.

We will continue to keep you informed as we navigate COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeff Holm