

March 15, 2020 Update & Reminders

Greeting Gator Families,

I hope all of our Gator Families are doing well! As you know, the current COVID-19 (Coronavirus) health issue is an evolving situation that changes daily, including Governor Cooper's executive order on Saturday, March 14 that:

**All North Carolina public K-12 schools are required to close for at least two weeks, beginning Monday, March 16.**

At this time I would like to share both district and school based updates and information:

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### **Building Access:**

**Garrett Office Hours** during closure will be as follows at this time:

Monday, March 16- 12:00-3:00

Tuesday, March 17-Friday, March 27-8am-3pm

We ask that you call ahead (919) 563-2088 to be sure, we are prepared for your visit.

The **ABSS district office** at 1712 Vaughn Road will remain open during the next two weeks to serve the community.

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### **Continuity of Learning**

ABSS has plans in place to continue learning during the mandatory 2-week school closure period and longer as needed. Our teachers are working diligently to create at-home learning for your child in either online or paper-pencil form. All students received packets from teachers they may begin. We will be sharing an outline of grade-level assignments for the next two weeks tomorrow. We are preparing lessons for At-Home Learning. For week 2 our student work will be available online and if needed we will provide paper-pencil opportunities.

#### ***Online Access to At-Home Learning***

- If you have online access, you can access several online resources through the Clever Portal on the front page of the Garrett website. Garrett encourages the use of Imagine (literacy or math) and Achieve 3000 (Grades 3-5).
- On Friday, your child brought home information regarding accessing Google, Clever, and other grade level online resources. Our media specialist, Ms. Jackson has created this document for families who are interested in additional resources. [Garrett Gators Digital Resource Access](#)
- If you have not previously logged into your child's Google account on your home device, you will initially "log in through google" using your child's full school Gmail address. (It will not work using a parent's gmail account.) Once this information is entered, it will prompt you to enter your child's google username and password.

#### ***Paper-Pencil Access to At-Home Learning***

- If you do not have online access, our teachers will be working tomorrow to finalize and print paper packets. Our hope is to have some prepared by noon tomorrow. We invite families to come to Garrett on Monday, from 12:00-3:00 pick-up paper packets for students to work on over this period of time. We will be communicating with parents to arrange the submission of student work.
- Parents may visit the school to pick up At-Home Learning Packets  
Monday, March 16th                      Tuesday, March 17-Friday, March 27  
12pm-3pm                                      8am-3pm

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### **Student Pick-up of Personal Items**

If your student has any personal items at the school they will need during these 2 weeks, you will need to come to school and pick them up on Monday between the hours of 12 pm-3 pm. If you are unable to come to Garrett at this time, please contact your child's teacher directly to share what you need and they can bring it to the main office for pick-up this week. All student items requested, must be picked up in the main office by Friday.

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### **School Nutrition**

North Carolina has received a waiver from the USDA for flexibility in developing school nutrition plans for use during the health crisis. ABSS will announce feeding sites across the county similar to the annual summer feeding program. Feeding sites will open for lunch on Tuesday, March 17. For Local Resources please visit [Feed the Hungry in Alamance County](#).

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### **School Cleaning**

ABSS has partnered with our contract custodial service provider, The Budd Group, to ensure that our cleaning staff is well stocked with an adequate supply of commercial grade disinfectants appropriate for effective cleaning of touch surfaces in schools. These supplies include highly effective cleansers, recommended by the CDC, for combatting the novel COVID-19 virus. During the mandated shut-down period, access to school facilities will be restricted with the exception of the school office and the media center for school staff. School custodial staff will use this time to implement deep cleaning procedures in all school buildings. The media centers and school front offices will be cleaned each evening by custodial staff after daily use.

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### **School Events (i.e. Concerts, Family Engagement Events, Open Houses)**

All evening school events will be canceled beginning Monday, March 16 until further notice.

Garrett/ABSS events canceled at this time:

- March 20 Tile Night
- March 20-5th Grade Visit to Hawfields
- March 26-PTO Duty-Free Lunch
- March 26- School-Wide Book Battle
- March 26 & 27 Student-Led Parent Conferences

- April 4 ABSS Science Olympiad Competition
- April 4-ABSS District Career Fair

**Book Fair is Cancelled.**

### **CFT, IEP, MTSS and 504 meetings**

At this time, IEP and 504 meetings are cancelled. We are working with our district to look at alternatives such as phone and video conferences. Exceptional Children case managers will contact parents directly.

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### **Before/After School Activities:**

Gator Island Before and After school care is cancelled. We are working with our Finance Department for clarification for how pre-payment will be handled.

### **AGE Clubs and extracurricular activities cancelled:**

- Science Olympiad
- Battle of the Books
- Running Club
- Strings

### **Field trips (Out-of-State/In-State)**

All field trips will be cancelled until further notice. We are working with our district finance department for guidance on refunds for those who have already paid for field trips. They are working with travel companies at this time. More information will be coming soon.

AGE Trips canceled at this time are:

- March 23-5th grade trip
- March 24-2nd Grade Field Trip
- March 26- Kinder Field Trip
- April 8-4th grade Field Trip
- April 9-Special Olympics Field Trip

We will provide an update for trips scheduled after spring break.

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### **Concerns about student/staff with connections to COVID-19 patients**

Health officials assure us that a member of the Alamance County Health Department (ACHD) will notify individuals as needed if they are at risk of exposure to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). If a staff member or family has questions about whether or not they may have been exposed or if they should stay home, refer them to the ACHD.

### **Privacy Laws**

State and federal law prohibits the school system from sharing confidential information about students and employees. While we understand that parents may have concerns, they do not have the legal right to know information about a student or staff member's country of origin, health status, places traveled or family members.

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**Resources for COVID-19:**

For further and current information please visit the following Websites:

**ABSS**

Please visit the ABSS website for the latest information we have about COVID-19.

<https://www.abss.k12.nc.us/domain/8922>

ABSS is announcing additional changes to our school operations that will take effect beginning on Monday morning, March 16. See the new guidelines in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

**COUNTY**

[Alamance County Health Department](#)

**STATE**

Current state guidelines advise against the pre-emptive closure of schools. See more for the [North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services](#).