

Dear Colleagues:

I have created a video for you explaining our last day our buildings will be open to students:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16gm-P4CIWmS7gx2eVAirIhcbxWuAgUrv/view>

Below is my letter to CPS Faculty and Staff.

Dear CPS Faculty and Staff:

The values of our school district are trust, integrity, collaboration, transparency, empathy, and grace. I want to thank each of you for living these values each and every day, and especially now during this unprecedented moment in history.

Tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17, Columbia Public Schools will be the last day our school buildings will be open to students. At the moment of closing, all athletics and activities will be suspended. At this time, we plan to reopen on Monday, April 13. We will continue to monitor the situation and adjust our plans as necessary.

Wednesday, March 18, Thursday, March 19, and Friday, March 20 will be teacher-directed work days *with* school building access. Teachers may come to work to complete preparations for what will be an alternative method of instruction model. If you choose to come to our building over these three days, please practice social distancing while in CPS facilities.

We will be under district closure protocols from March 23<sup>rd</sup> through April 12<sup>th</sup>, those dates cover spring break and the two weeks after spring break. What that means is that school buildings will only be accessible to personnel essential to the operation of the school district. Supervisors will direct their departments on who will be expected to come to work and who will be expected to work remotely. The district has a plan in place to ensure all employees continue to receive normal compensation according to their payroll calendar, this includes hourly and support staff. Alternative methods of instruction will not be expected during spring break.

You may have questions about whether your position is responsible for physically reporting to work during this the closure. You may have questions about your pay or responsibilities while working remotely. Please see the following link: <https://www.cpsk12.org/COVID19> for that information and more. We've got a lot of resources on the site with more being added every day.

Each day, we will provide an update on our website. There may be nothing new to share, but we know that staying connected is the best way to ensure you're getting the most accurate information.

The next few weeks will require us to work together. Thank you for the empathy and grace you have shown me, that you've shown to each other, and that you've shown to our children and their families.

Sincerely,

Peter Stiepleman

Superintendent

Columbia Public Schools

PS – We added this in your letter above, but I want to make something very clear as these are extraordinary times. **The district has a plan in place to ensure all employees continue to receive normal compensation according to their payroll calendar, this includes hourly and support staff.** This was important to the Board of Education, to the Administration, and to every employee I have talked to. We budgeted to pay our employees – now is the time to show them they are valued.