



OCONTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

“Leaders & Learners . . . Today & Tomorrow”

Dear OUSD Parents and Guardians,

Let me begin by saying how much we miss our students. Oconto Unified School District district values the health and well-being of our students, staff, and families and it has always remained our top priority. Presently we are in a capricious situation. A pandemic of this scale is new for all of us, however I am proud to say that our OUSD students, families, educators, Oconto County Community, and all other stakeholders have quickly risen to the occasion, as usual! As a district administrator, I want to thank you all for extending your support amidst such trying times.

As you know, Governor Evers issued a ‘Safer at home’ order which extends through April 24, 2020 and prohibits all nonessential travel, with some exceptions as clarified and defined in the order.

I was already anticipating this situation and my staff and I proactively prepared our communications plans to address these concerns effectively. Through this letter, I want to clarify many of your queries during this extended closure. Some of those questions were regarding grades, promotion, graduations and so much more. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instructions (DPI) as per their letter dated (March 20, 2020) communicated that they will evaluate policies and procedures and keep us posted. The DPI continues to work with Governor Evers’ office and legislature around suspension of state testing and accountability requirements.

The next few weeks will not be easy on any of us but we will work together to minimize and mitigate the effects it may have on our lives. We are going to do our best to provide schoolwork to keep our students' focused. As parents of your child/children, I request you to support us in this learning process to make it successful. Do not hesitate to contact your teacher via email .

All our school buildings will remain closed at this time. Our district staff will be working remotely, we also ask for your patience and understanding as we travel this new territory, too. Our teachers and staff are working around the clock from home while dealing with their new, but temporary, normal. We are committed to our goals.

Under the light of new order, I wanted to update you about our Virtual Distance Learning Plans and Food Distribution services.

- **Virtual Distance Learning Program:**

<https://www.oconto.k12.wi.us/domain/98>

In consultation with our highly prudent team of administrators, educators and support staff, we have outlined online class programs to continue with our virtual learning plan of action. Our communications coordinator has created a dedicated page on our website titled ‘Covid - 19 Education Resources for Parents’ where our teachers will continue to update their lessons, links, codes, and so much more. Please, remember, these lessons are designed to reinforce and enrich student skills while schools are closed. They are NOT meant to add stress to an already very difficult time in our lives.

District Office
400 Michigan Avenue
Oconto, WI 54153
P 920-834-7814
F 920-834-9884

Oconto Elementary School
810 Scherer Avenue,
Oconto, WI 54153
P 920-834-7808
F 920-834-9883

Oconto Middle School
Bayshore Community Academy
Northeast WI Learning Academy
400 Michigan Avenue, Oconto, WI 54153
P 920-834-7806 F 920-834-1240

Oconto High School
1717 Superior Avenue
Oconto, WI 54153
P 920-834-7812
F 920-834-7804

- **Food Distribution:**

This week remains as scheduled. However, starting Monday, March 30, we will be moving to two days a week for meal pick up and delivery. Mondays and Wednesdays from 10am-12pm. These days will give families the 5 days of breakfast and lunch. We ask families to bring a box or bag for pick up. **If anyone did not sign up for meals but would still like them they can contact Anne Zalubowski, Food Service Director, (920)834-7814 ext 2111 foodservice@oconto.k12.wi.us**

Other Important Information:

1. Governor Tony Evers Orders: EMERGENCY ORDER #12 SAFER AT HOME ORDER

https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WIGOV/2020/03/24/file_attachments/1409408/Health%20Order%20%2312%20Safer%20At%20Home.pdf

2. Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction: Letter dated March 23, 2020

(<https://dpi.wi.gov/administrators/e-mail/clone-covid-19-updates-march-23-2020>)

3. **CYBERSAFETY:** Sadly in these times, there are bad people that want to take advantage of us in our new "digital" distance classrooms and increased "free" digital time. We must be diligent in ensuring they are not allowed to invade the world of our children. Please discuss cyber safety with your children and monitor them as much as you possibly can. The following is just one of the many online resources available for information on how to protect your children.

<https://www.connectsafely.org/wp-content/uploads/securityguide.pdf>

In closing, I on behalf of the OUSD team, wish you and your family the very best. Please follow the CDC guidelines using social distancing and hygiene protocol. Remember, life will get back to normal eventually, but hopefully, it will teach us to appreciate the little blessings of life and take time to enjoy them. Kindness is realizing that we are all in this fight together. I am confident that our Oconto Unified School District will live upto its legacy of nothing less than 'Excellence'!

Sincerely,

Superintendent
Emily Miller
Oconto Unified School District