



**Terrell County Independent School District**  
**PO Box 747**  
**Sanderson, Texas 79848**  
**432-345-2515**  
**Fax (432) 345-2404**

March 24, 2020

Dear Terrell County ISD Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Beginning March 30, 2020, all Terrell County ISD students will begin “at-home” learning. The Governor of Texas issued an executive order that requires schools to remain closed through at least April 3, 2020. As a district, and as a state, we are unsure of how long this closure will actually last. Best case scenario, we are in school on April 6, 2020. Worst case scenario, “at-home” learning could last several weeks or months.

In order to ensure that students receive academic support, the teachers have begun planning different lessons to support learning from home. We understand that each home situation is different and that resources are different from home to home. Because of these challenges, Big Bend Telephone will be working with us to ensure that our students have access to internet during the school closure. The district will be checking out chromebooks to families in need of a computer device. The **teachers** will be developing lessons that range from “low-tech” to “high-tech” lessons. This means that some lessons will be paper/pencil, while others will be online.

**When does “at-home” learning begin?** Monday, March 30, 2020

**How do students get their work?** Below is the schedule for packet and chromebook pick-up, beginning Monday, March 30, 2020. During your assigned pick-up time, please remain in your vehicle. School personnel will take you the resources that are needed for “at-home” learning.

- **LESSON PICK-UP**
  - Lessons, supplies, computers will be provided to students via curbside each Monday, in front of the JH building. The following times are assigned for pick-up to avoid having all parents and students arriving at the same time:
    - 8:00-9:00                      PreK-4<sup>th</sup> grade
    - 9:00-10:00                    5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade
    - 10:00–11:00                 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade

\*\*\*\*If a family has students in multiple grade levels, they should pick-up their materials during the time that is assigned to the youngest student. Example: If a family has a student in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 10<sup>th</sup> grade, assignments will be picked-up between 8:00 and 9:00 for all these students.



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- **LESSON RETURN**
  - All lessons that are required to be completed via pencil and paper will be submitted to the school the following Monday when students/parents arrive to pick-up the new assignments. This means that the first round of “at-home” assignments are due on April 6, 2020. If classes resume on April 6, 2020, your child will bring their work to school.

### **What about attendance?**

Students will be counted present for school as long as two things occur –

- 1) Student work is picked-up each Monday, beginning Monday, March 30, 2020; and
- 2) student work is turned in at the assigned time (via paper packets and/or online)

Failure to pick-up work and complete it may result in an absence and could result in retention due to failure or non-attendance.

### **How will teachers communicate with parents and students?**

Within each packet, parents and students will be provided with contact information for their teachers. Teachers have also been assigned specific days to call students/parents to discuss work. Some teachers will be utilizing Google Classroom and Google Hangouts to meet with students regularly. There are several online resources that staff members will use to stay in contact with students/families.

### **What about grades?**

Teachers will grade assignments according to how they are assigned. Some assignments are graded online while others will be graded after they return. Grades will be posted weekly, to provide parents and students with feedback that is beneficial.

### **What about STAAR testing?**

All STAAR testing has been cancelled for this school year, per the Governor of Texas. We will move forward with our learning and worry about testing during the 2020-2021 school year. Right now, it is important for teachers to focus on getting lessons to students to avoid learning gaps during this school closure.

### **UIL Events and Activities?**

At this time, all UIL events are suspended until at least May 11, 2020. We are unsure of how UIL will handle competitions that have been suspended due to COVID-19. As the school receives information, we will provide that information to the public.

### **Have decisions about graduation been made?**

No, a decision about graduation will not be made until mid to late April.



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**Will the school and/or school office be open?**

The school will only be open to specific school personnel on specific days and times. The public will not be allowed into the school during this school closure. If you need to reach the school, the school office personnel will be available on the following dates and times:

- Thursday, March 26, 2020 8:00 – 12:00
- Friday, March 27, 2020 8:00 – 12:00
  
- Monday – Wednesday from 8:00 -12:00 beginning Monday, March 30, 2020. There will be no school personnel available on Thursday or Friday beginning the week of March 30, 2020. Contacts will need to be made via email. Email addresses can be found on the Terrell County ISD website at [www.terrell.esc18.net](http://www.terrell.esc18.net).

As a district, we will continue to provide you with information regarding our school closure, at-home assignments, and different issues as they relate to COVID-19.

I appreciate everyone's patience during this time. We understand that this isn't easy for many of you. We are here to help and support you "from a distance."

In the meantime, continue to practice social distancing. As bored as kids may be, don't allow them to "hangout" at each other's homes. It is important to practice true social distancing, especially if you have traveled anywhere outside Terrell County. Use this time for family games, reading, and other fun opportunities that we often put on the backburner because we are all busy.

Sincerely,

Amanda A. Magallan, Superintendent  
Terrell County Independent School District  
Sanderson School