



Jackson County School District #91 (Butte Falls)

April 3, 2020

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Community Members,

Over the past three weeks we all have experienced the rapid and far-reaching shut-down of many businesses and services we have come to enjoy in our daily lives. On March 12, public schools were ordered to close. Here is what we have been doing since then.

Teaching and Learning Is happening in Butte Falls. Our teachers responded with concern for students. Over the next two weeks they began to plan for how we could continue to teach our students even from a distance. At first, we were told that schools would reopen on April 1. Then the closure was extended through April. Now, it is very likely we will not be allowed to reopen our school buildings until after the school year ends. Thankfully, our teachers and Principal Dianne Gorman decided to make a plan that could support distance learning for the rest of the year. Teachers contacted families and students to make sure everyone was safe. They also provided updated information on what students should be working on at home.

Our Technology Coordinator, Catherine Cogdill, cleaned and disinfected all of our classroom Chromebooks, ordered protective covers, and prepared these for distribution to our students. She surveyed families to see who lacked internet connectivity and has been working with U.S. Cellular to obtain “hotspots” for those students. This past Tuesday, four teams of our classified support staff (bus drivers and educational assistants) delivered about 200 Chromebooks directly to students (grades 1-12). Two of our classified employees are now providing help-desk support for these students Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon.



Principal Dianne Gorman and Tech Coordinator Catherine Cogdill packed Chromebooks and other Instructional Materials ready for delivery on

Our teachers are setting up virtual classrooms using Google Classroom. Each teacher is adjusting curriculum for this necessary change in our teaching and learning program. While we miss having our 225 students on campus, we are grateful for the ability to keep our students connected with their teachers and the learning that still needs to happen this spring. We intend to continue to partner with our students' parents to keep learning going.



Head Cook Courtney Anderson and Bus Driver Kari Carlton package 1350 meals for delivery.

Meals for Children. One of the features of our school is that we provide breakfast and lunch for all of our students during the school year. With the sudden closure, families have been facing not only job furloughs and loss of income, but also increased grocery bills. Our classified employees have mobilized to scale up and implement a “Meals on Mondays” meal delivery service for families who have students enrolled in our school and for any other children under the age of 19 who live within the boundaries of our district.

This past Thursday we did our test run and delivered approximately 1,350 meals for 225 children.

Our amazing Kitchen Cook, Courtney Anderson, quickly pulled together resources to provide each child with three breakfasts and three lunches (with milk and juice) and, with the help of Kari Carlton, packed all the meal packages early Thursday morning. We also provided meal package pickup for families living within Butte Falls. Next Monday we will begin our weekly delivery of a week’s worth of breakfasts and lunches. We project we will be delivering at least 2250 meals each Monday until the end of the school year.



Driver Mike Bateman and Educational Assistants Shawna Hennigan and Calbie Stockfleth prepare to load meals.



Driver Marc Ellis and Educational Assistant Billie Jean Garote carry meals to their bus. (Cindy Taylor also assisted.)



Driver Jennifer Wiers and Educational Assistants Shane Smedley and Monica VanDerMeer begin their delivery route.

Childcare for First Responders and Medical workers. The Governor has asked that we check with any first responders, emergency workers, or health care professionals within our district to see if they need child care during the day. If you fall within these categories and have such a need, please contact us at Feedback@buttefalls.k12.or.us and let us know of your need. We will work to assist you.

Disinfecting and Cleaning our School Facilities. Over the extended Spring Break, we brought a team in to deeply clean and disinfect our school campuses. Per the Governor's Orders, we are restricting access to our facilities to authorized employees. Our teachers have access to their classroom materials. Unfortunately, the seriousness of COVID-19 has forced us to close our grounds and playgrounds to the public. We will continue to take of our grounds and facilities during the closure, but no community activities are permitted at this time.

Taking Care of Business. Our School Board will hold its regularly scheduled Board and Budget meetings in the coming months. Directives from the Governor do not allow us to have more than 10 people in any meeting. We will provide minutes of the meetings. If you have a specific concern or interest in one or more of these meetings or would like to communicate something to the School Board, please email us at Feedback@buttefalls.k12.or.us. I monitor that account and will respond to any inquiries.

Check our website (www.buttefalls.k12.or.us) for periodic updates or find us on Facebook (Butte Falls Charter School).

If you have questions, concerns, suggestions or encouragement, please email Feedback@buttefalls.k12.or.us.

Wishing you all good health and sunshine! Enjoy it at socially appropriate distances, but continue to look out for each other.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip A. Long".

Dr. Phil Long, Superintendent
JCSD#91 (Butte Falls)