

HOLMES DISTRICT SCHOOLS



An update on school issues during the COVID-19 pandemic closure.

MARCH 17, 2020; 5:36 P.M.

WWW.HDSB.ORG

From Superintendent Terry L. Mears



The Holmes District School Board is committed to providing the best education possible for our students, regardless of the circumstances. It is a challenging time for our nation. We have plans in place to allow for continued instruction and meals for our students during this extended closure. Governor Ron DeSantis has announced students will not return to school before April 15. Our students will still observe Spring Break the week of March 23-26, and we will begin implementing our Instructional Continuity Plan and emergency feeding program on Monday, March 30. We appreciate your cooperation as we work together to overcome these challenges!

Report Cards



Report cards were scheduled to go home today. Due to the closure, they will be held at the school until school reopens. Parents are encouraged to log in to Focus and check their child's grades.

Controlled Open Enrollment



The Controlled Open Enrollment window will open on Wednesday, March 18 and close on Friday, May 1. Students who reside outside the school zone of the school they wish to attend must complete a new form each year. Please visit our website (www.hdsb.org) and click the Controlled Open Enrollment link on the left side to access the 2020-21 form.

Meals for Students



The state has activated their Summer BreakSpot website, where families can find free meals for children under 18 during the current school closures. The meal locations and schedules can be found at <https://summerbreakspot.freshfromflorida.com/>. Beginning March 30, our district will implement our own feeding plan. Details will be forthcoming.

State Testing



The Florida Department of Education has informed us that all state testing will be cancelled. School grades will not be counted for 2019-20.

Extracurricular Activities



All extracurricular activities, including proms, between now and April 15 have been postponed.

From the Mental Health Department



If your child is currently being served through counseling services in our community, we encourage you to continue utilizing these services to ensure your child is not only physically well, but mentally and emotionally well, too. Life Management Center, Florida Therapy Services & Pancare are all offering tele-counseling if you are unable to make it to their offices. For questions about counseling or to set up tele-counseling, they can be reached at the following numbers:

- *Life Management Center (Bonifay Office): 850-547-5114
- *Life Management Center (Marianna Office): 850-482-7441
- *Florida Therapy Services: 850-526-5500
- *Pancare : (Bonifay Office) 850-547-5547

We also understand these times can feel uncertain and increase any feelings of anxiety, sadness, fear, and stress you may have. If you or your child is experiencing mental health difficulties or in a mental health crisis, please utilize any of the following emergency numbers:

- *Life Management Center 24 Hour Crisis Line: 850-522-4485
- *Emerald Coast Behavioral Hospital: 850-763-0017
- *National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK