



April 16, 2020

Good afternoon School District of New Berlin families and staff,

Today, Gov. Tony Evers announced that Wisconsin's Safer at Home order, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, has been extended through May 26. Along with the extension came the announcement that all K-12 public and private schools in Wisconsin are to remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.

We have been preparing for this possibility for weeks, and while we were holding out hope that we could return to our schools at some point this spring, this announcement is not unexpected.

We know the new announcement will raise many questions, and we will continue to provide transparent communication when decisions are made regarding:

- Any additional changes related to the distance learning structure;
- When and how students will be allowed to pick up belongings at school;
- When and how various student fees will be refunded;
- When and how special events such as graduation will take place;
- The WIAA high school spring sports season.

We anticipate additional questions to arise during this unprecedented time, and we will continue to answer them as we are able. Additionally, we will continue to update our Frequently Asked Questions on our [distance learning web page](#).

We also want to remind families and staff of the changes to the distance learning structure that take effect this week. Friday, April 24, is a professional learning day for staff. There is no virtual school for students. On Fridays beginning May 1, and through the duration of the school year:

- Students will:
  - NOT receive new assignments;
  - Be able to connect with teachers for extra help or support;
  - Be encouraged to complete late or missing work for the week, including specials at the elementary level.
- Teaching staff will:
  - Be available for students and parents who need extra help, support and communication;
  - Collaborate to improve distance learning opportunities for all students;
  - Plan for the following week of distance learning.

As we've said many times over the last several weeks, this is uncharted territory for all of us. And it is not the outcome I and many others were hoping for. But with your continued support of the SDNB, we will all get through this together.

Sincerely,

Joe Garza  
Superintendent

