

# McCall-Donnelly Joint School District No. 421



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March 15, 2020

Dear Families and Staff:

The reality of identified cases of COVID-19 in Idaho this weekend, has impacted all of us. We are concerned for the health and wellness of our entire community. Today, your administrative team and representatives from St. Luke's McCall met. We listened to Governor Brad Little, Greg Wilson, Health and Welfare Director Dave Jepson and Caroline Bridges offer guidance on school closures. They reiterated the recommendation to follow the Centers for Disease Control *Considerations for School Closure*. This document is available on the front page of the McCall-Donnelly School District webpage. This is an extremely difficult decision. Agencies at every level of government are urging us to continue school next week. We will hold school tomorrow, March 16, 2020. We also recognize that the situation may change and require school closures. The McCall-Donnelly Board of Trustees will meet tomorrow to look closely at our local situation.

The following are guidelines for tomorrow, Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>:

In response to Public Health recommendations, we are cancelling the following activities:

1. All School Assemblies
2. Field Trips
3. Indoor Athletic Events
4. Rental of School Facilities by Outside Organizations
5. Volunteers and other non-school community members of the public entering school.

We also ask that all families take extra care to assess the wellness of your child(ren) before sending them to school. Please keep your child home with any symptoms of a cold or illness. If you choose to keep your child home, all absences will be excused. Ultimately, the responsibility for health and safety is the parent's decision.

With spring break scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, we all have concerns regarding travel. Idaho's Public Health scientists recommend avoiding travel to areas with high levels of community spread COVID-19. Specifically, health officials named the states of Washington, California and New York.

We will continue to monitor this closely and provide updates. In the event of an identified case in our area, please anticipate that we may respond with school closures and a plan to address the learning needs of all our students.

**“Developing Lifelong Learners Today”**

Barbara R. Morgan Elementary School   Donnelly Elementary School   Payette Lakes Middle School  
Heartland High School   McCall-Donnelly High School