HOT SPRINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

415 SPRINGVIEW ST
THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

Dustin Hunt
Superintendent of Schools

Phone: 307-864-6515

Kathy Groh
Administrative Assistant to Supt./Board

August 31, 2021

Greetings HSCSD #1 Patrons,

Due to the recent rise in COVID 19 infections in our community, and across the state HSCSD #1 will be moving to a digital instruction format starting September 1st and returning to in-person instruction on September 13, 2021. Students will receive instruction through their Google Classroom account in all grades, with the exception of Kindergarten and 1st grade that will also receive some homework packets. Students have been provided with their Chromebook device to take home today August 31st.

It is disappointing to be in a digital instruction period this early in the school year, but unfortunately numbers of students and staff infected with COVID 19, or under quarantine orders has reached the threshold of needed separation. During this digital period, there will be no activities including practices taking place. The food service team will be handing out meals Wednesday, September 1st from 8:00 am-1:00 pm and Wednesday, September 8th from 8:00 am-1:00 pm at RWE Loop.

Grades & Attendance Count: Please encourage your students to be faithful to their school work during this time. Grades will be taken, and students will be counted present by doing their work. Not participating in the digital learning could result in difficulties for the student at a later date in their educational career. Teachers will be designing lessons to be as family friendly as possible. Please feel free to contact staff if you need assistance.

Parent Communication:
RWE will use Class Dojo to communicate with parents.
TMS will use Remind to communicate with parents.
HSCHS will use the all-call/text/email system to communicate with parents.

As always you can email the teacher if you need assistance. The district will also use the all-call/text system.

For students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), contact will be made with parents/guardians by their child's special education teacher to discuss virtual IEP specialized instruction including related services as applicable.

The State of Wyoming provides Hathaway Merit and Need Scholarships to Wyoming students attending the University of Wyoming and Wyoming Community Colleges. Every Wyoming student who meets the merit requirements can earn a Hathaway Merit Scholarship. Contact your school counselor for more information.

Preparing for return to In Person Learning on Sept. 13th:

Deep cleaning will be done by the custodial and maintenance staff during the digital period. Currently there is no state or county order for masking in place and vaccination is also a personal choice. The District is not inclined to make these decisions for families at this time, but reminds families that masking and vaccination are the recommendations from the Centers for Disease control. Without a state order in place, it is not feasible to ask our students and staff to do something at school that our community as a whole will not do in public.

Masks are an option for all students and staff. While they may prevent the spread, both parties must be wearing them in order to avoid quarantine. Vaccinated individuals do not have to quarantine unless they are showing symptoms. Students and staff that receive a positive COVID test do not have to quarantine for 90 days following the end of symptoms.

It is Still About Learning:

While we faced similar challenges in our community for the last two school years, as a community we have tackled this adversity, and our students have had amazing results. I have faith that if we stay focused on what we can control, and on helping our students learn despite these adversities we will continue to have our students succeed. Please stay safe and healthy and feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Dustin Hunt
Superintendent
Hot Springs County School District #1