

Aspen Staff and Families,

As stated yesterday, Aspen Academy will be closed March 18-27 in order to allow more time to plan for the possibility of a prolonged period of Distance Learning when we return from spring break, March 30.

Tomorrow scholars will be coming home with all of their school supplies and snow gear. Please bring an extra bag to help them carry home their supplies. If your scholar is absent, please stop by the front lobby before 2pm on Wednesday to pick up their supplies.

The following provides a few details with regard to what can be expected in the coming days. Please know that as our plan continues to evolve, we will provide additional information as it becomes known.

### **Aspen Website/Communication**

Communication is critical. If you are not receiving email communications from Aspen, please first check your spam folders. Please add Aspen to your “safe” list or contact list. If you are not getting emails, please contact [christi.heitzman@aspenacademymn.org](mailto:christi.heitzman@aspenacademymn.org) to add your email.

Visit and bookmark our website: <https://aspenacademymn.org/current-families/resources/> We are posting frequent updates and communications on COVID-19 and Distance Learning on our website. Please bookmark these pages for easy access.

### **Before and After Care/Eagles Nest**

- If you signed up for Eagles Nest for Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, you will receive a credit back towards future care in Eagles Nest.
- Aspen is extending the April registration deadline for Eagles Nest to March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- If you already completed an Eagles Nest registration for April, Aspen will hold your form and payment until March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- On the chance schools remain closed after spring break, Aspen will send out further communications.

### **Hot lunch order for April**

If you placed an order for April, please leave it. As of now, we are still planning to resume classes on March 30. If the state decides for schools to remain closed, you will be credited for April lunches.

### **Free Child Care for Healthcare and Emergency Workers**

To support our parents and guardians who are health care workers and emergency personnel, you may register to bring your K-8th grade Aspen scholar to Aspen during Distance Learning Days (scheduled to start March 30 if classes do not

resume). Your scholars will be completing Distance Learning lessons from a licensed teacher at Aspen. Aspen will not be providing busing transportation.

Please provide verification of parent employment by providing a letter from your employer or showing an employment badge.

- Distance Learning will be provided at Aspen Academy
- Parents who qualify can register online here: [Registration Form](#)
- If you are having trouble registering, please call 952-226-5940
- Cost: Free
- Who: Aspen Scholars K-8<sup>th</sup> grade
- **Hours: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm beginning on Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> if classes do not resume.**
- Lunches: bring a home lunch/order a cold lunch from the school through the online lunch ordering program.
- Transportation not provided

We are grateful for these members of our community and the critical role they play in mitigating COVID-19.

### Technology

If you don't have access to internet at home, you can call 1-844-488-8398 or 1-844-488-8395 during the school shutdown for free internet from Spectrum.

If you have not previously filled out the technology form regarding computer and internet access, please do so immediately. [Computer/Internet Access Form](#)

### Make up Days?

Because the governor has ordered the closure of schools starting March 18<sup>th</sup>, districts are not required to make up the days between March 18-March 27. March 23-27 was already Aspen's scheduled spring break.

### Distance Learning

If Aspen moves to Distance Learning starting March 30<sup>th</sup> please visit <https://aspenacademymn.org/current-families/resources/elearning/>. You will learn:

- Distance Learning facts
- Parent training
- Student guidelines
- Google Classroom Information

It is our expectation that scholars will have a variety of learning experiences on and off the computer.

### Google Classroom

Google Classroom login information will go home with students tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17. It will be emailed to scholars who are absent. Google Classroom will be the place students login to get lessons and take attendance every day.

Google Classroom Assistance:

Login: [jodi.herlick@aspenacademymn.org](mailto:jodi.herlick@aspenacademymn.org)

Assistance with how Google Classroom works: [stu.keroff@aspenacademymn.org](mailto:stu.keroff@aspenacademymn.org)

### **Distance Learning Lunches for Free & Reduced Lunch Program**

We are offering to provide lunches for those who qualify for free and reduced lunch while school is closed.

- Order lunch online as usual.
- Lunches will be handed out at school in a drive-thru manner.
- Pull up to the front of the school by the playground just like drop-off and pick-up times.
- A school staff member will come out to your car.
- Please show them an i.d. and tell them who you are picking up lunches for and they will verify it with the lunch order.
- Your lunches will be brought out to you in a sealed package.
- Lunches can be picked up between 11:30 – 12:30 daily during distance learning days only. If the school is “closed” and it is not a distance learning day lunches will not be provided.

Thank you for your continued support,

Dr. Connie Freitag  
Executive Director  
Aspen Academy

