

March 12, 2020



Dear Community –

I was hopeful that you wouldn't have to get a COVID-19 update from me in such proximity to my earlier message on Tuesday evening, but as noted, things continue to change and DWS has updates to share. As the COVID-19 virus has been escalated to a pandemic status, it is not only our responsibility to look towards the health and safety of our students but also toward the responsibility of us as community members in a larger metro area. We continue to seek guidance from professionals as they weigh the data and continuous changes. **Today, Thursday March 12th, school, conferences, sports practices, etc. will continue as usual.**

Changes to the Schedule

The school will be closed tomorrow, **Friday March 13th for all students for a teacher *planning* day.** Initially the lower school was scheduled to have a half day tomorrow to accommodate parent/teacher conferences, and instead we are taking this day to continue our plans around a possible extended closure. **Conferences tomorrow, Friday, will also not be held.** As part of this preparation we ask every family to please fill out this [technology survey](#). This survey allows us to assess our community's readiness and assist with any specific needs of individual students. I will communicate our extended closure plan in the coming days after our planning session takes place tomorrow. As mentioned on Tuesday there are many factors that could determine whether a school closure is necessary for an extended period of time. These factors may include any active COVID-19 cases, overall staffing shortages or student attendance numbers, and state and local guidance or requirements pertaining to illness or pandemic.

Conferences, Field Trips and Event Updates

- **Conferences will continue to happen this afternoon and evening, as well as on Saturday as planned.**
- **Conferences will be rescheduled with families who are planning to come tomorrow, Friday March 13th in order for planning to take place.**

The 5th grade class ski trip to Summit County next Wednesday, March 18^t has been cancelled. As community members we understand that if COVID-19 spreads quickly into other high country mountain communities, they may not have resources to manage the virus effectively. We want to be preventative and precautionary as good citizens of the world.

The DWS Talent Show on March 20th has been cancelled. After much deliberation and with great agony we have made the decision. This event draws some of our largest community crowds and looking at

trends from other states that have faced the COVID outbreak so far, we are following the guidance that gatherings of 250 people or more be discontinued.

For this same reason, we are also **postponing Senior Projects happening on the 27th and 28th of March.** As this is one of our premier events and a graduation requirement for our seniors we will look toward a more appropriate time for our incredible seniors to present.

Lastly, the **Junior Play happening tomorrow, March 13 and Saturday March 14th,** because they are small group gatherings **will continue to take place in Festival Hall and is not cancelled.** If you are comfortable, please come out and support our Junior class!

Community and Care for Each Other

The most difficult thing during this time seems to be the ongoing nature of 'unknowingness'. With answers unclear and continuously changing, it is keeping us constantly second-guessing our actions and adds to a state of agitation. Our [COVID website](#) is now live and is a place where you can find information.

I myself am finding some peace in recognizing that the world community is facing this together, that we are all having to make quick decisions, and possibly even mistakes, as we navigate this uncharted territory. Embracing uncertainty truly is becoming my motto. In our everyday lives we often don't have an opportunity to practice that skill – I am feeling the stretch of this new practice and I know we are in this together.

In love, light and health,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly R. Church". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "In love, light and health,".

Kelly Church