

March 30, 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians,

This unprecedented time is stressful for everyone. We ask that you continue to put your families first. Stay healthy and safe. Use the AMI activities and digital learning resources to your advantage, continue the learning, but don't let it stress you out. You have a lot to deal with right now. We are here to help and provide support. If you need assistance with instruction, internet access/availability, obtaining a device, or with meals during the school closure, please communicate that to your child's teacher(s).

This week students should work on AMI Days 8-10 on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. AMI Packets were sent home before the school closed or can be located on the website at www.cotterschool.net This Thursday we are shifting to digital learning grades K-12 for the extended school closure. Your child's teacher(s) will be in contact with parents and students this week to provide instructions for Thursday and beyond. Teachers will provide differentiated instruction by grade level and content area based on student's needs. **Please hold your AMI packets and completed work for AMI Days 1-10 at this time.** We will evaluate the situation on April 20th and proceed from there.

Chromebook exchange/pickup is available for students in Grades K-12 who do not have another device at home or who are having issues with their Chromebooks that cannot be resolved over the phone.

If you need to pick up or exchange a Chromebook, you may do so between the hours of 11am and 1pm and 4pm-6pm on Mondays for the duration of the school closure. This begins TODAY, March 30th. The pickup location is the doors to the right side of the cafeteria. Tech related questions can be emailed to technology@cotterschools.net or call 870-421-0122 Monday-Friday 8am-4pm.

FREE WiFi Hotspots are available at these locations in the district:

Central Office Parking lot on our campus 6am-10pm

Big Spring Park-6am-10pm

Gassville Gardens 6am-10pm

****A map of Yelcot's FREE WiFi locations around the Twin Lakes area can be found at <http://wifi.yelcot.com>**

Beyond core instruction, students have many other needs during this time. Kids need physical activity, proper nutrition, and playtime. Here are some ideas and resources that may help you as we adjust to the new normal.

- Create a schedule that works for your family. Our kids need some structure at this time. You have flexibility to make it work for *your* family. Teachers are available between 8am-4pm Monday through Friday. However, students are NOT required to be online during those hours. If your child needs to work outside that time frame and/or on weekends, that's totally acceptable. If your child submits work and/or questions through a digital platform outside the regular school hours of 8am-4pm, the teacher will follow up with your child the following school day during regular hours.
- We are providing meals for students during the extended school closure FREE to all children 18 years of age and younger. You do not have to be a student to receive a meal. To comply with social distancing guidelines, meals will be available for pickup Monday-Friday from 11am-1pm at the Amanda Gist Elementary Cafeteria. You will drive up to the area of the double doors and meals will be available there. Please fill out the Google form to order meals.
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1nYYruoEp3ReWCgsZceVe7POOvrS1IYm7j-8Dx0L_oVM/viewform?edit_requested=true
- The arts, music, and play are valuable outlets for children of all ages. Be creative and do some projects together or play. Get outside and move. Read with your kids and have them write a summary or retell what they read orally or by drawing it themselves. AMI/Digital Learning Days are whatever you and your family need this time to be; choose that and communicate with your child's teacher.
- Mental health is very important. Our counselors are available to students Monday-Friday between 8am-4pm. They can meet with students virtually through email and REMIND to provide support during this difficult time.
 - **Elementary Counselor-Beth Foster** bfoster@cotterschools.net
 - **JH/High School Counselor-Ashley Woodell** awoodell@cotterschools.net

This isn't an ideal situation and it won't be until we can get back to class where we all want to be. We all want to have our kids in class and on campus. We miss them. We want our partnership with parents and community members to grow stronger during this challenging time. We are all learning and being pushed out of our comfort zone, and we will be better for it in the end. It is our goal to be flexible and compassionate as we serve our students and families. Please contact your child's teacher and communicate with them through the preferred method (Remind, email, Class Dojo, SeeSaw, Google Classroom/Hangouts, etc.) They are working through this remotely, but they are available to you and your child. They want to hear from you.

We are practicing social distancing at the physical buildings with staff per CDC Guidance. There is very limited staff on site. You can leave a voicemail at 870-435-6171 and someone will get back to you as soon as possible. We will all work together to solve problems as they arise.

Please keep in mind that all school employees are doing the best that they can. Many have children of their own and families to care for during this time as well. Please be patient and kind with everyone. This situation is fluid and things are changing day to day. We will continue to communicate and update you as new information is available. We are Warrior Strong. We will get through this together. Stay safe.

Vanessa Thomas Jones, Superintendent