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**NEWS RELEASE**

Tuesday, March 16, 2020

For Immediate Release

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**SDJ provides details regarding family access to schools on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 and meals for children starting on Thursday, March 19, 2020, and Travel guidance**

JANESVILLE—The School District of Janesville (SDJ) will open school buildings on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 between the hours of 7:30 AM and 6:30 PM. All families are encouraged to come to school during that time/day to retrieve supplies and personal items students have left in their school when school let out this past Friday (before school closure was announced).

During that block of time, school staff will be available to help students and families retrieve items left in classrooms, hallway lockers, gym lockers, and pick up (if applicable) any medications for students. Additionally, families will be able to check-out a district provided device (Chromebook, iPad, depending on grade level) and will receive more information about enrichment learning opportunities/resources that the SDJ is compiling for families. Families not able to get to school on Wednesday should send an email to their building principal to make alternative arrangements.

Beginning Thursday, March 19, 2020, and continuing weekdays Monday through Friday (including Spring Break), the SDJ will provide free “grab and go” lunches and breakfasts to any child, 18 years of age and younger. The “grab & go” meals will be available for pick-up between the hours of 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM at the following locations:

- Craig High School \*
- Parker High School \*
- Marshall Middle School
- Edison Middle School
- Madison Elementary
- Wilson Elementary
- Van Buren Elementary, and
- Jefferson Elementary

Meal pick up will be located at the front entrance of the 8 locations, with two exceptions\*: Craig HS, where they will set up at the back of the school at the lower cafeteria level; and Parker HS, where they will set up by the west-side entrance (main student entrance). For the “grab and go” meal distribution, SDJ is using a drive through model, with walk ups welcomed. Children will be able to stop and get out of vehicle to pick up meals. Per federal law, families are only allowed 1 meal per child in the car or per child present. The “grab and go” meals will include a breakfast for the child to use the following morning.

(MORE)

As an additional consideration, the CDC has very clear guidelines for those considering any travel in the coming days, weeks, and months. Please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html> to see their full listing of areas/regions to avoid. Please carefully consider any non-essential travel in the coming weeks. An area may not be considered “high risk” now, but that could change daily.

We are asking families and staff to consider the request to avoid travel to areas of higher COVID-19 concern on behalf of everyone in the community whose health would be adversely affected by the rapid spread of COVID-19. Airlines and hospitality industry leaders have almost universally created no-fee change/reschedule options for customers, which we hope could help ease your family’s concern with respect to delaying/changing vacation plans. If you do travel, we ask our district family to consider the following:

- In light of the seriousness of this spreading pandemic, we ask that you please follow the CDC guidance and avoid non-essential travel.
- Be prepared for the possibility that upon return from any trip, you might be directed to quarantine or isolate.

We all play a role in reducing the impact of a disease outbreak in our community. We share this community with thousands of others, many of whom have health concerns that might make contracting COVID-19 a more serious and life-threatening reality. If we can slow the spread by social-distancing (canceling events, and avoiding large crowds, etc.), we have a better chance of not overwhelming the healthcare system with a rapid spike in patients. Hence the trending #FlattenTheCurve, which is explained through the information available at the following link: <https://infogram.com/flatten-the-curve-1hzj4omzw71p6pw>.

Thank you for your support and cooperation as we work together to slow and reduce the impact of a COVID-19 disease outbreak in our community. We continue to encourage everyone to practice good habits such as washing your hands regularly using soap and hot water, for at least 20 seconds, and staying home and away from crowded areas when you are sick. We encourage everyone to practice good habits, including:

- Wash your hands regularly using soap and hot water, wash for about 20 seconds.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue, and throw the tissue away, or cough/sneeze into your arm.
- As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose.
- Avoid close contact in crowded areas and stay home when sick.

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See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/workplace-school-and-home-guidance.pdf> for more preventive measures.