Dear Brown Deer Families and Guardians,

The health of our students, staff, families, communities and most vulnerable populations is of utmost importance as we support all efforts to reduce the impact of COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released guidelines for school districts on school closures on March 13, 2020. In consideration of this unprecedented situation in Wisconsin and the nation, both the North Shore and Washington Ozaukee Public Health Departments support “medium length” school closures for schools to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. Our district website will have the most recent information in regard to this pandemic under the “Families” tab - “District Health Information.”

The School District of Brown Deer along with the following school districts: Cedarburg, Fox Point- Bayside, Germantown, Glendale-River Hills, Grafton, Maple Dale-Indian Hill, Nicolet, Northern Ozaukee, Port Washington, Mequon-Thiensville, Shorewood, and Whitefish Bay will be closing for the next four weeks with the possibility of an extension. This means that our district, along with others, will be closing for a four week period beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, with our school district, tentatively resuming Monday, April 13, 2020. Communication regarding any further adjustments to the school calendar will be handled by the district office. Each of our partnering districts has an individual plan to navigate this closure. See the Brown Deer Plan below for additional information.

Most importantly, the impact of a single case in any one school or district is extremely significant. If one student or staff member becomes infected, everyone who was in close contact will need to be quarantined for 14 days. Close contacts include anyone who spends time, within six feet, of the positive case. When considering the proximity of a school environment, the contacts and exposures grow exponentially, and quickly. We are supporting closures before community transmission is confirmed to greatly reduce further spread of the COVID-19 in the community. We recommend that you follow the CDC and Public Health Department guidelines regarding social distancing and group size for gathering. See our website and links in this letter for more details.

Sincerely,

Dr. Deb Kerr
District Administrator
Brown Deer School District

The #TeamBrownDeer Plan

During the four-week closure, teachers will continue to provide distance, virtual, and continuous learning opportunities. This time encompasses our spring break and allows a 14-day, post-spring break travel quarantine (as per CDC) for students and staff who may have traveled to communities where COVID-19 is potentially present. Individuals who have traveled or come into contact over spring break will be beyond the recommended 14-day quarantine time frame and will be able to return to the district.

While this does not replace the day to day high-quality learning and teaching experiences we are asking teachers/staff to provide families and students access to engaging, insightful, grade-level appropriate materials that will provide enhanced learning opportunities. We are working with our instructional staff to prepare and plan accordingly. Each building’s instructional resources will be posted online and updated to support continuous learning.

We apologize for the short notice of this unprecedented community health issue and are working with community partners to provide meal opportunities and other supports. More information will follow in regard to these support services. If you have
any questions or concerns, please contact the message line at 414-371-6770 and we will return your call as soon as possible.