



# Brenham

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT EST. 1875

March 17, 2020

Dear Brenham ISD Parents and Staff,

As you know, Brenham ISD has been closely monitoring updates from our local health department, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding COVID-19. Additionally, President Donald Trump has urged all Americans to avoid gathering in groups of more than 10 people, a change from the previous recommendation of not gathering in groups of more than 250. Based on recent developments and updates, in order to help slow the spread of the virus and safeguard the well-being of our students, staff, and community, **Brenham ISD has decided to suspend normal school operations at least through Friday, April 3.**

At this time, we are unsure when normal operations will resume, and we encourage parents to begin thinking of long-term plans in the event we are closed for an extended period of time beyond April 3. We have shared a list of mobile-friendly instructional resources for parents and families on the [Brenham ISD COVID-19 webpage](#). Our curriculum and instruction team is working on remote learning plans for instruction, which will be shared as soon as they are finalized. Please know we are taking into consideration the diverse and unique needs of the students and families in our district as we plan for future remote instruction. At this time, we ask that you support your students to the best of your ability and focus on social-emotional well-being over academics.

Because a great number of our students rely on school district nutrition programs for food, Brenham ISD will provide a free drive-thru boxed lunch and bagged breakfast for all students during the closure. Meals may be picked up at Alton Elementary School (1210 S. Market Street, Brenham, TX) from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. District staff will deliver food to the vehicle; families will not need to exit their vehicle to receive the meals. Food will be provided for all children between the ages of 1-18. Children must be present in the vehicle to receive the meal. Please know that our district team is also working on a plan to meet the needs of our students and families who are without transportation or live in remote areas of our community.

All Brenham ISD staff will be paid during the time of the school closure. Nonexempt employees (hourly time clock employees) will be paid for their regular hours even though they are not required to be at work. This excludes tutors, substitutes, and employees paid under contracted services.

The decision to close schools is not ever made lightly. We know the impact of this closure is far-reaching in terms of parents needing to make arrangements with work and other matters. Please understand this decision was made based upon the current reality of COVID-19 activity and the recommendations and information provided by DSHS, the CDC, and The White House. We will always place the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and community as first priority.

Thank you for your understanding. Please take care of yourselves and each other. We will follow up with additional information as we reevaluate what additional steps should be taken.

Sincerely,

Dr. Walter Jackson  
Superintendent of Schools