



# Uinta County School District No. Four

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March 23, 2020

Hello! I hope things are going well for all of you and your family! As mentioned in my most recent correspondence sent last Thursday, this letter will provide a detailed update on how we will manage the challenges set forth by the Coronavirus in Uinta 4 moving forward. The administrative team met throughout the weekend to develop this plan. One of the challenges we are having is that things change so quickly. For example, some of the decisions we made this weekend were changed earlier today after I participated in the latest conference call with the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE). Also, the recent order from Governor Gordon that limits public gatherings to less than ten people has created new challenges as well. That being said, this is Uinta 4's plan moving forward with the understanding that when things change, parents will be notified as soon as possible via K12 Swift Alert, our district Facebook page and our district website

To begin with, we all need to view things from two separate timeframes. March 23<sup>rd</sup> – April 5<sup>th</sup> and then April 6<sup>th</sup> and beyond. All of the conversations we have had with the WDE have been related to the timeframe of March 23<sup>rd</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Currently, this is the only period of time in which the WDE is capable and willing to give us answers. They are doing an outstanding job for all of us and have provided great information and support so far but this is a new and unexpected situation for them as well. Therefore, below is the plan for March 23<sup>rd</sup> – April 5<sup>th</sup> that has been developed for Uinta 4.

**Make-Up Days:** The WDE has approved a waiver for March 23<sup>rd</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup> in regards to school attendance. Therefore, these next two weeks will not need to be made up. April 6<sup>th</sup> and beyond is still to be determined.

**Student Learning:** We will begin to re-engage parents and students remotely beginning tomorrow, March 24<sup>th</sup>. We have developed a plan through April 5<sup>th</sup>. Once we know more about school closures beyond April 5<sup>th</sup>, we will adjust our remote student learning plan accordingly. The main platform for remote learning will be Google Classroom. However, there are other ways to provide remote learning which could include, but are not limited to, phone calls, email messages and enrichment packets that can be picked up at the school. None of the remote learning during these next two weeks will be “new” learning and all of the learning will be optional, not required. If internet connectivity or devices are an issue for your child, you can share this concern with your child's teacher when they contact you on March 24<sup>th</sup> and we will begin working on solutions. In general, you can expect the following:

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The State of Wyoming provides Hathaway merit and need scholarships to Wyoming students attending the University of Wyoming and Wyoming community colleges

- Kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup> grade: Classroom teachers will contact parents/students beginning tomorrow. They will work to identify with each family the best means of communicating and sharing assignments, technology limitations, and establish “office hours” which will provide a time for parents or students to contact their teacher directly. The focus of the remote learning for our K-5 students during these next two weeks will be fun and interesting enrichment activities related to standards. Completing these assignments will be optional and will not impact grades. Learning to remotely communicate and access learning material will be valuable during these next two weeks.
- 6<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade: Classroom teachers will contact parents/students beginning tomorrow. They will work to identify with each family the best means of communicating and sharing assignments, technology limitations and establish “office hours” which will provide a time for parents or students to contact their teacher directly. Additionally, teachers will be sharing any applicable Google Classroom codes that will allow access to their Google Classrooms. The focus of 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade remote learning for these next two weeks will be on allowing students the opportunity to complete missing assignments from previous learning. Completing this work is optional but should raise a student’s grade. Enrichment activities will also be provided, but completing these will be optional and will not impact a student’s grade. Those high school students who are enrolled in college coursework will continue with this coursework as directed by the college and the concurrent teachers at Mountain View High School.
- Special Needs Students: If your child is on an IEP, you will be contacted beginning tomorrow by the case manager. They will work with you, your child and the classroom teacher to support your child’s learning. If your child is on a 504 plan, please contact your building principal if you have any concerns.
- Counseling: If your child is currently receiving counseling services through Uinta 4, you will be contacted beginning tomorrow to establish an appropriate remote counseling plan, if needed.
- General Mental Health and Well Being: We understand that all children and families may have heightened concerns, stress and anxiety about exposure to the Coronavirus. Causing The following resources may be helpful in visiting with your child about this situation:
  - The National Association of School Psychologists: [https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)
  - PBS (<https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-coronavirus>)

Teachers and building principals will be managing and fine tuning this remote learning plan as needed. You can expect contact from them with more specific details beginning tomorrow. These next two weeks will allow us to identify the strengths and weaknesses of our remote learning capabilities which will lead to improvement if our remote learning must extend past April 5<sup>th</sup>. If it does extend past April 5<sup>th</sup>, we plan to offer full remote learning under the guidance and expectations set forth by the WDE that are still pending.

**Food Service:** Uinta 4 will be serving a grab and go sack lunch beginning on Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 to 12:30 targeted to those students in Uinta 4 who rely on the school's free and reduced lunch program. Sack lunches will be prepared at the school and distributed to families at the curb in the bus loop.

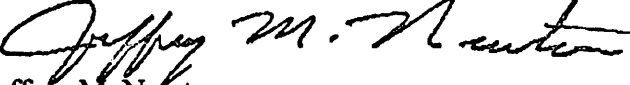
**Wyoming High School Activities Association:** All activities and practices have been suspended through April 5<sup>th</sup>. April 6<sup>th</sup> and beyond is still to be determined.

**Uinta 4 Activities and Events:** All activities and events have been postponed through April 5<sup>th</sup>, including Kindergarten registration and Prom. We will try to reschedule these events for later this spring, if allowable. The state-wide ACT for all Juniors in Wyoming scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup> has already been cancelled. The next possible date is April 21<sup>st</sup>. If this date is also cancelled, we will communicate the options moving forward once we know more. Additionally, the WDE has received an assessment waiver from the United States Department of Education. Therefore, the WY-TOPP will not be given this year. Graduation is still scheduled for May 18, 2020 at 6:00 in the high school auditorium. We will let you know if this changes.

**Access to Building and Facilities:** All Uinta 4 buildings and facilities will remain closed through April 5<sup>th</sup>. This includes our fields, playgrounds and buildings. If your child has medication stored in the school building that they need within the next two weeks, please contact your building principal via email to arrange a time to pick it up. There will be no one available to answer the phones from March 23<sup>rd</sup> – April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Uinta 4 will continue to be dedicated to ensuring the safety of our students and staff members as we try to provide the best remote education as possible during these challenging times. Thank you for your patience, support, and understanding. Times like this bring us together and we want you to know that your trust in Uinta 4 is appreciated. We will get through this together!

Thank you,

  
Jeffrey M. Newton

Superintendent

Uinta 4