

EAST BUTLER BULLETIN
"WHERE FUTURES BEGIN"
MARCH 24, 2020
www.ebutlertigers.org

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2020 TO THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020
SCHOOL CLOSED - NO ACTIVITIES

EAST BUTLER E-LEARNING
PORTAL - All students are able to
access their teacher or teachers
through the portal. If you have
questions or concerns, please
contact: Mr. Biltoft -
sbiltoft@ebutler.esu7.org or
Mr. Eldridge -
meldridge@ebutler.esu7.org.

DRIVER'S EDUCATION DATES AT EAST BUTLER:

Classroom: Monday, May 18 through Friday, May 22 each night after school
Monday, May 25 through Friday, May 29 as scheduled

Driving: As scheduled May 25 through June 12

Drivers Education registration forms are available in the office or from Mr. Glasshoff.
Please return registration and down payment **by April 17**. If you have any questions
regarding Drivers Education, please see Mr. Glasshoff.

East Butler Public Schools

"Where Futures Begin"

P.O. Box 36
212 South Madison Street
Brainard, NE 68626
Phone: (402) 545-2081
Fax: (402) 545-2023



Sam Stecher - Superintendent
Michael Eldridge - Secondary Principal
Shawn Biltoft - Elementary Principal

Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members,

After consultation with area health departments and state educational leaders regarding COVID-19, it has been determined that all schools in the ESU 7 service area will be closed through April 30, 2020, with the possibility of schools being closed for the remainder of the 2019/2020 school year. This decision will be re-evaluated as circumstances change, with parents and families updated accordingly. School closure may be extended as needed. The situation will be evaluated by area health departments on April 16, 2020. Local health and school officials are monitoring the COVID-19 situation closely and have determined that this action would help prevent exposure to our area to flatten the curve and decrease the spread of disease.

A month ago we did not anticipate that global events would so drastically impact our East Butler community. Developing a plan and responding to new information daily has continued to be a challenge. We are committed to respond to this as we respond to every challenge presented to us at East Butler. Every effort will be Even Better than the one before.

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to evolve daily. We will continue to work with state and federal leaders to develop the plans and implement the services to maximize the greatest amount of good we can do for our students and staff members. In a statewide conference call with school administrators, Governor Ricketts and Commissioner Blomstedt stressed the following to every school district across Nebraska:

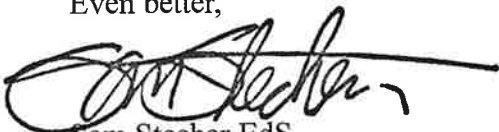
- Nebraska is among the few states that took early measures to prevent the rapid spread of Covid-19;
- There is far more to accomplish in this societal response effort, but school closure is among the recommended strategies to address the public health concern;
- Closing schools by itself is not enough; communities, families, businesses, churches, hospitals, and individuals have to change in order to slow the spread of the virus;
- We should expect to see more extreme measures (similar to those being seen in other states);
- Schools should not return to normal operations and must prepare to operate in this alternative learning environment (without students in schools) through the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.

Commissioner Blomstedt has asked every school to focus on a mission of caring for the well-being of our communities, families, staff, and neighbors. We understand the extent of the concerns and want to stress that as school district leaders we are focused on:

- The well-being of our students and families;
- Taking care of our staff members so they can address their personal needs, as well as assist with the needs of our students;
- Providing a thoughtful enrichment program, while taking into consideration the students and families with the most need including adjusted special education services, services for poverty, and English Learner families;
- Providing closure for our graduating senior class; finding a way to allow our seniors the opportunity to complete coursework and wrap-up their senior year;
- Addressing the individual needs of all of our students to the extent possible;
- Supporting our community and assisting with needs as they arise.

I have personally struggled on a daily basis with knowing what is the best course of action to take. There are times I have thought “I don’t know what to do.” Though the specifics can be elusive there is always one certainty as to what I should do - my best. That is what I ask of all of us. Whatever your role in this, do your best. There is no better defense against what we face than our collective and individual best. Our best now is what makes Even Better happen today, tomorrow, and next school year.

Even better,



Sam Stecher EdS

Superintendent

East Butler Public Schools

If you are interested in receiving school breakfast/lunch support we are in the process of arranging pick up of provisions weekly. Please call us at 402-545-2081 if you have this need.

We know that many students might have personal items at school they wish to retrieve. We will be setting up appointments to pick up those items shortly.



**EAST-CENTRAL DISTRICT
Health Department**



March 22, 2020

Recommendations for Continued School Closure Due to COVID-19

Based on the current epidemiological risk factors, and projections by state, federal and national health officials, East Central District Health Department (ECDHD), Four Corners Health Department (FCHD), and Central District Health Department (CDHD), strongly recommend that all schools served by ESU 7 close until April 30th. This recommendation will be reviewed on April 16th. While everyone is anxious to get back to "life as usual," there is a possibility that schools will remain closed for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year.

This recommendation to close schools is not undertaken lightly. It was made after hours of consultation with education officials at the state and local level, as well as ongoing monitoring of the increase in COVID-19 cases in, and in close proximity to, the counties served by ESU 7.

ECDHD, FCHD, and CDHD realize that our recommendations carry economic and personal costs for thousands of persons in your school districts. However, COVID-19 is easily spread from person-to-person, and it is not safe for large groups of people to gather. The latest epidemiological evidence has shown that persons, including children, can spread the COVID-19 virus before symptoms develop. This recommendation is meant to help our communities "flatten the curve," and prevent community spread in the ESU 7 service area. The only way to slow the spread of disease, increasing the medical community's ability to treat those infected, is to practice social distancing, including keeping 6 ft. between persons and limiting their contact with other persons, in large or small groups. While children are out of school, locations such as shopping malls, movie theaters, bowling alleys, laser tag or other arcades, and community centers should be avoided.

We encourage those who need general information about COVID-19 to call 2-1-1 or the NE Department of Health and Human Services COVID-19 Information Line at (402) 552-6645.

While there is currently no vaccine or other medical treatment for COVID-19, there are a few things anyone can do to protect themselves from COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses, and we encourage you to continue this information with your school populations:

- Practice social distancing. Stay 6 feet away from the person or persons next to you.
- Avoid close contact with sick people and stay home if you are sick.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water aren't available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough with your elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

Chuck Sepers
Chief Public Health Officer
East Central District Health Department
Boone, Colfax, Nance, & Platte Counties

Teresa Anderson
Health Director
Central District Health Department
Hall, Hamilton, & Merrick Counties

Laura McDougall
Executive Director
Four Corners Health Department
Butler, Polk, Seward, & York Counties

Zoom



One way that teachers will be able to communicate with students during a school closure is a website/app called Zoom. Zoom is a video/chat tool that allows teachers and students to connect.

Here is the Zoom 101:

What you need to know as a parent and help kids communicate with their teacher and classmates.

1. Installation

Zoom is already installed on the students device. No need to download anything. It can be used on a laptop or iPad. It's a free app so can even be downloaded onto a phone.

2. Joining a Class- 3 ways to join

- a. Your teacher may email you a link. Just click on this link and the video will begin. Make sure you allow the microphone and camera.
- b. You may use the teacher's personal meeting number from their website.
- c. Your teacher may give you a link through Google Classroom. Simply click on the link there.

3. Class Routines/ Procedures

- a. Students need to stay muted unless they have permission from the teacher to talk.
- b. Students need to have audio on.
- c. Students need to raise their hand if they have a question.
- d. If procedures and routines aren't followed students will have consequences.
- e. Do not use to chat to discuss things that are not about class during class.
- f. Don't share your screen unless your teacher approves first.

4. Troubleshooting Tips

- a. If you can't get sound or video, make sure you allow a microphone/camera.

If you have questions email Lisa Bohaty lbohaty@ebutler.esu7.org

Zoom office hours

Please sign up two times for office hours.

	Jr. High 7th-9th	Sr High 10-12th
8:00-8:30	Kriz, Wood, Masek	Masek
8:30-9:00	Chapek, Witzel, Masek	Kriz, Wood, Masek
9:00-9:30	Zajac, Hermelbracht, Styskal	Widick, Witzel, Styskal
9:30-10:00	Kocian, Styskal, Odvody	Widick, Hermelbracht, Styskal, Odvody
10:00-10:30	Talacko, Bohaty, Strizek, Odvody	Kocian, Strizek, Odvody
10:30-11:00	Glasshoff, Strizek	Bohaty, Strizek
11:00-11:30	Jahde, Zajac	Glasshoff
11:30-12:00	Bongers	Bongers
12:00-12:30	Christensen	Christensen
12:30-1:00	Christensen	Christensen
1:00-1:30	Talacko	
1:30-2:00	Hines, Dalton	
2:00-2:30	Hibbert	Dalton
2:30-3:00	Palensky	Hibbert
3:00-3:30		Palensky