



River Forest  
Public Schools

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)  
River Forest District 90  
May 1, 2020**

Gov. Pritzker's recent announcement mandated the cancellation of in-person instruction and the continuation of remote instruction for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. While this action is designed to stem the rate of COVID-19 infection, it also presents a host of additional questions for every school district. Below are some of the most frequently asked questions that administrators have received about how the unplanned school closure affects District 90, our students and families, and upcoming events and activities. Due to the fluidity of the situation, this information represents the most accurate responses at the time of this writing but is also subject to change as additional announcements and directives ensue. Please check the District website for additional information.

**Remainder of the School Year (June 2020)**

***What is the plan for the usual end of year activities, such as Field Day, Big Hearts/Little Hands, and end-of-year concerts, etc.?***

With Gov. Pritzker and Village President Adduci's shelter-in-place directives, all of the District and PTO planned in-person gatherings have been canceled for the remainder of the school year. In the meantime, our PTOs, school principals, and administrators are currently in discussion about crafting alternate ways to recognize our students' hard work, encourage social-emotional connections, and bid goodbye to their fellow students and teachers. Please continue to monitor the District's website and your emails for additional information.

***How will students be able to retrieve their personal items and/or prescription medications that have been left at school?***

District administrators and principals are in the process of working out the logistics regarding the retrieval of students' personal items and/or medications. Due to the highly contagious nature of the coronavirus infection, any plan that is developed must take into consideration several issues including,

- Number of people allowed in a school building at one time
- Location of individuals while in the building
- Safety of our engineering and maintenance staff with students and parents in the building
- Maintenance of the required social distance among all individuals while in the building
- Ability to hand off any student items in a contactless manner

Until the District finalizes the process for returning student possessions, all items remain safe and secure. Currently, access to school buildings is restricted to the engineering and custodial staff, with limited, controlled entrance for faculty and staff on a scheduled basis. Additional information about retrieving personal items will be forthcoming once a safe and efficient process has been finalized. Please be assured that the District intends to coordinate the return of items no later than the end of May.

***Will graduating 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students have a graduation ceremony? Will 4<sup>th</sup>-grade students still have their recognition and clap-out ceremonies?***

Because of the government-mandated limitations on the number of people who can gather in any one place, we will not be holding the traditional 8<sup>th</sup>-grade graduation ceremony nor the recognition and clap-out ceremonies for 4<sup>th</sup>-grade students transitioning to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Conversations between school principals and PTOs are in process about how to commemorate and celebrate these milestones for our students. Some items under discussion in lieu of the traditional 8<sup>th</sup>-grade event include a virtual graduation ceremony, a video highlighting this year's 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students, and other elements to commemorate the completion of 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The last day of remote instruction for 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students will remain June 3 (Graduation Day).

For students transitioning from 4<sup>th</sup> grade to 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Roosevelt Middle School, the traditional recognition and clap-out activities will be reimagined. School principals and the PTOs at Lincoln and Willard Schools are in the process of deciding upon ways to acknowledge student achievement, recognize the accomplishment of completing 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and celebrate their time at Willard and Lincoln. The last day of instruction for students is June 10. Please stay tuned to the PTO newsletters and school emails for forthcoming information once the details for the alternate graduation, recognition, and clap-out ceremonies are formalized.

**From June Through the Summer**

***What will happen to Summer School and other Summer Programming during the cessation of in-school instruction?***

District 90 provides several types of summer school programming: classes for enrichment, core academic classes, and Extended School Year (ESY) courses. Due to COVID-19 considerations, summer school enrichment classes are canceled. Most enrichment classes were explicitly designed for in-person instruction and typically featured athletic activities, hands-on projects, or highly interactive participation. However, core academic classes and ESY courses will be offered. These classes will be conducted virtually, using many of the remote learning protocols and practices that are currently in use. While registration for Summer School closed on April 17, please be assured that additional details will soon be sent to registered families, including information about how and when refunds will be processed for enrichment classes.

The District is also currently working to develop optional summer learning opportunities for all students and families who wish to participate. These learning opportunities will consist of supplemental math and summer reading programming across the K-8 continuum. By design, these additional learning

opportunities will be flexible and enable families to engage to the degree desired and appropriate for each family. Further information will be provided in the coming weeks.

***How will Kindergarten registration continue during this period?***

District 90 offers half-day (morning and afternoon) classes for Kindergarten. Registration for the 2020-21 Kindergarten class is ongoing and continues until the first day of school for students. Children who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2020, are eligible to register for Kindergarten. School principals request that families register their students as soon as possible in order to help District administrators and school principals make crucial decisions, such as the number of morning and afternoon sections, the number of teachers and staff, the girl/boy ratio in individual classes, and other factors.

Families who are new to District 90 must register their Kindergartner with Josephine Ribaud, District Registrar. Due to COVID-19, the registration process will be conducted via telephone or online with the required documents scanned and uploaded to the District. Please contact Josephine Ribaud at [ribaudoj@district90.org](mailto:ribaudoj@district90.org) to schedule a virtual appointment to register your student.

Families with children already enrolled in District 90 can register their Kindergarten students through the Ecollect data collection system that is part of the Powerschool student information management system. Families can log in or create a Powerschool account by visiting this link: <https://d90.powerschool.com/public/>. Registration information and documents are available in the Powerschool portal.

For more information about Kindergarten registration, please visit this link: <https://www.district90.org/about/kindergarten-registration>.

***With schools closed, what is the plan for students to return iPads and school and classroom library books?***

For students in grades K-7, the District will be allowing families to retain their District-issued iPad during the summer to facilitate participation in Summer School's core academic classes, Extended School Year (ESY) programming, and optional summer learning opportunities. Students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be required to return their District-issued iPad at the conclusion of the school year so that it can be reconfigured for re-issuance to new students in the fall. Additional information will be shared very soon about the return of 8<sup>th</sup>-grade iPads and other details specific to 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students and families.

The District is also asking that school and classroom library books be returned the same day and time that students retrieve their personal items. As we finalize the logistics for the return of student personal items, we will also formalize the procedure for returning classroom and library books. Please continue to monitor your email and District website for more information.

***How will District 90 identify and address learning gaps that result from this truncated academic year?***

With the cancellation of in-school instruction in mid-March, District 90 schools were able to complete approximately 70% of the school year's curriculum and learning standards. The remaining 30% of the planned curriculum has been prioritized to concentrate on essential learning standards with the understanding that some standards would not be taught during the remote learning period. While remote instruction can serve as a suitable substitute when traditional classroom instruction is not available, it is not comparable to the traditional classroom experience. District administrators, school principals, teachers, faculty, and families are all aware of the limitations of remote learning.

The District is in the process of creating a comprehensive transition plan outlining the process for bridging this spring's remote learning to the 2020-21 school year when we return to in-school instruction. As part of this plan, designated teachers, instructional specialists, and administrators will work during the summer to identify instructional needs and modify the curriculum to address the learning standards that need to be taught or reinforced. The recursive nature of learning units enables teachers to adjust lessons by compacting or extending instruction as needed. Specifically, the process for addressing learning gaps from the shortened in-class academic year includes:

- Grade level teams will meet to review student progress at the end of the year and identify the standards that were taught, the extent and depth of instruction, and the standards that were not addressed.
- Teams of teachers will work across grade levels to modify the curriculum in order for receiving teachers to integrate the standards not taught during remote learning into their instruction throughout the subsequent year. These standards will be woven into the scope and sequence of the coming year in a manner that aligns with the content units.
- Students will be assessed early in the school year to identify individual learning gaps and instructional needs. This assessment will help teachers determine what content was learned and retained and what needs to be retaught with individual students receiving tiered services as needed.
- Over the summer, the District will consider and evaluate the potential to provide supplementary programming that can be offered to students requiring more extensive interventions.
- District 90 will be collaborating with Oak Park and River Forest High School (and Oak Park District 97) to ensure as successful a transition as possible for 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students as they progress to the high school. More information will be shared about this effort as details emerge.

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