

**Continual Learning
Plan events for
USD 248 students:**

Wed., April 1 & Thurs., April 2:
Teachers will “push out”
information to students to
check for connectivity issues
for on-line resources.

Mon., April 6 -
Continual Learning Plan for
students begins.

Fri., May 22 -
Continual Learning Plan for all
students concludes.



Girard Unified School District No. 248
415 N. Summit
Girard, KS 66743

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Special Edition

District Prepares for Online/Off-site Learning

On March 17, 2020, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly ordered all public school buildings closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. In doing so, Kansas became the first state in the nation to terminate traditional “in-person” classes for the school year. This unprecedented move was in response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic, which began in late 2019 in Wuhan, China, but by January 30 had made its way to the United States.

“This was not an easy decision to make,” Kelly said. “It came after close consultation with the education professionals who represent local school boards, school administrators and local teachers,” she explained. “These unprecedented circumstances threaten the safety of our students and the professionals who work with them every day and we must respond accordingly.”

The news came after Girard Superintendent Blaise Bauer, along with all other Crawford County superintendents, made the decision to suspend classes for a 2-week period, which for most schools included their spring break.

“As more information and guidelines from our state health and education departments became available to us, we realized that social isolation was really the best way to get a handle on this very dangerous situation,” said Mr. Bauer.

“We are choosing to look at this as an opportunity to overcome a challenge that we’ve never had to deal with before. There’s a whole lot of education going on here that is beyond the text book.”

School administrators and staff have been working diligently to establish methods for delivering the educational process online. Teachers are preparing

at-home “classrooms” and daily lessons that can be delivered primarily through iPads and educational applications. For those students without internet services, lesson packets will be available. Craw-Kan is offering several internet “hot spots” throughout our district as well. Locations of those hot spots are included in the article on the back page of this newsletter.

Parents are asked to please read the Superintendent’s Message inside, which has valuable information for them as they prepare for the process of partnering in their child’s education.

“We know how much we are asking of our parents,” said Mr. Bauer. “We are establishing tools to help them with this task. We are also asking for our community’s patience as we are adjusting and adapting daily as this situation is so fluid and requirements are changing daily.”

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**Craw-Kan
Community Internet
Hot Spots Available**

Our community partner, Craw-Kan Telephone, is working with our school district and the community in general to offer internet connectivity hot spots across the district. Craw-Kan is planning to provide hot spot locations for Wi-Fi connectivity in Brazilton, Hepler, Walnut, Farlington, the Girard baseball/softball fields and the Crawford County Fairgrounds. Once those are up and in service we will post a list with addresses on the district website. Craw-Kan is also offering these services to several other communities in Southeast Kansas as well. The addresses for these hot spots will be released in the next few days, or you can go to www.ckt.net/hotspots to check for updates. For our students who do not have Wi-Fi connectivity or may need a more efficient connection to Wi-Fi, please consider these sites for online school resources.

Community Resources Contact Information

USD 248 Information:

Administration Office 620-724-4325
Alternative School 620-724-4505
Girard High School 620-724-4326
Girard Middle School 620-724-4114
R. V. Haderlein Elementary 620-724-4327
USD 248 District Website girard248.org

Nutrition

Meals on Wheels 620-231-4880
Senior Services of SEK 620-231-9773
Homeless Prevention 620-240-5167
Wesley House 620-233-3760

Employment Services

KANSASWORKS Pittsburg 620-231-4250
Southeast Kansas Works 620-232-2620

Child/Family Resource Services

Catholic Charities of SE Kansas 620-235-0633
Crawford County Court Services 620-232-2460
Crawford Co Health Dept Teen Pregnancy Program 620-231-5411
DCCCA 620-231-5401
DCF Child Care Subsidy 620-231-5300
DCF Child Support Services 620-231-5300
KVC Family Services 620-232-1501
Pittsburg DCF Service Center 620-231-5300
Restorative Justice Authority 620-235-7118

SEK-CAP Family and Community

Engagement Office 620-231-5400
SEK Family Connections 620-235-7126
SEK Respite Services 620-421-6550
or 800-362-0390

**Options for families in need of
child care:**

Child Care Aware of Kansas provides assistance to families searching for licensed child care. They can be reached toll free at 877.678.2548. KDHE has an online information system that serves as a tool to support families in making informed child care choices and can be used to review compliance history of a current licensed provider. Families that need flexible options or irregular care might consider having someone come into the home. Relatives, older siblings, and friends or neighbors currently not working due to COVID-19 related business closures might be available to help. Other options for families that need limited care include informal care arranged between friends/neighbors on an irregular basis or someone to provide care in their own home for no more than two children for not more than 20 hours week. None of these options require a license from KDHE.

SUPERINTENDENT

Blaise Bauer
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www.girard248.org

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SUPERINTENDENT'S

Blaise Bauer

Message

Dear Parents:
Let me begin by expressing my deepest regrets at the effects that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on your students' education. These are very trying times and a crisis of this magnitude is something our children have never experienced. I am sure that they are confused and upset. It is our goal as a school district to maintain as much "normalcy" as possible for the sake of our young people.

That being said, there will be a significant change in your students' schooling over the next few months, and this change is going to require you as parents to become involved in your child's education to a much higher degree. Never before has the parental role been more important in assisting us in delivering high-quality education.

Our teaching staff will be sending out lessons and activities, primarily utilizing iPads for our delivery of instruction. If you are not connected or cannot access internet, we will have an alternative plan for you. Some face-to-face instruction may take place at a later date. Rest assured, ALL students will be reached. We will leave no student behind throughout this process. We also know that education of a kindergarten student will look different than that of a senior in high school.

Helpful hints for success for all:

- Stay positive and assure your child that we will get through this
- Have specific times for doing homework
- Be available for your child for questions and answers
- Utilize the resources the teacher(s) put out
- Always watch for updates/tutorials in technology on our website, www.girard248.org. For technical questions, we have added a tab for tech assistance and frequently asked questions. Information will be added to the website on a regular basis, so please check for updates.

Our staff is working tirelessly to have online instructions ready for classes to begin in early April. We are hoping to have lessons ready for home instruction on April 3, but will definitely have them ready by April 6 at the latest. Instruction should continue through May 22.

Finally, I need to convey the importance of taking the online schooling seriously. School is still in session and expectations for our students are still in place. Students are expected to complete daily lessons, and class credits will not be attained if work is not done. Students will still receive grades and assessments, and will not be promoted to the next grade level if these expectations are not met. Seniors must still meet the necessary requirements for graduation in order to receive a diploma.

We need your help to ensure that your student(s) have a proper mindset and attitude toward education, even though life as they know it has just been drastically altered. Please look at this crisis as an opportunity to help your children become stronger and more self-sufficient, to teach them responsibility and accountability, and to help them attain a proper worldview as we care for self and neighbor. We can get through this together. Girard schools have always received tremendous support from our community, and we look forward to partnering with you in this new endeavor.

Preliminary USD #248 Food Service Action Plan

USD 248 will continue to serve breakfast and lunches to all of our children ages 1 – 18 within the community through the end of the school year by providing reimbursable meals through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). School lunches and breakfasts for the following day will be provided at the same time at two school building locations and three satellite locations starting Monday, March 30th through the end of the scheduled school year. To meet SFSP guidelines, children must be present to receive meals.

Online/Mobile App Ordering

- Beginning April 6th - Use of free Nurtislice software to pre-order meals (through mobile app or computer) and to notify parents of meal serving locations throughout the district.

School Building Location Serving Sites

• **RVH Elementary School**

Use of the West building entrance to serve carry out meals from 11:30am – 12:30 pm

• **GMS/GHS**

Use of the football field concession stand to serve carry out meals from 11:30am – 12:30 pm

Satellite Locations Serving Sites

- Delivery of meals using food service staff & volunteers to three locations:
 1. Walnut-Farmers Bank: 11:30am – 12:00pm
 2. Hepler-Community Center: 11:30am – 12:00pm
 3. Farlington-Fire Department: 11:30am – 12:00pm
- Anticipated meal delivery to other potential locations as needed including community learning centers.

Community Resources Information

In addition to devastating health concerns, the current COVID-19 pandemic is wreaking havoc on the economy nationwide and that is not likely to change anytime soon. Many families are facing financial hardships right now because of layoffs and businesses closing their doors temporarily.

In an effort to meet the social/emotion/physical needs of all of our students, we have compiled a list of names and numbers of services that provide community assistance. Some of these can be found on the back of this newsletter. Please know that many of these service providers may have altered hours to meet the parameters currently set forth by health authorities.

The following food assistance is available in our community: USD 248 RVH Food Bank Assistance will continue for those who have been receiving it (as long as supplies last); the Girard Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10am - noon; St. Michael's Catholic Church offers a free community meal on Thursdays beginning at 5:30pm in the parish hall (They are currently offering take out only).

Feel free to contact your building principal with any additional questions or concerns. We are here to help in any way that we can.

RVH News

At RVH, we are committed to educating all of our students either through internet or through mail-out packets. Students or parents should have heard from their classroom teacher or an administrator by now regarding internet service, up-to-date phone numbers, addresses, etc.

Online or mail-out packet lessons will officially begin on Monday, April 6. If you are an online user, teachers will be reaching out the previous Thursday, April 2nd to do a "trial run" and test the online connection. RVH will be using SeeSaw for all of our communication needs, homework, videos and other applications. Tutorials for parents are available at www.girard248.org. Fortunately, most of the students are familiar with the iPads and SeeSaw.

If you will be using the mail-out packets, those should arrive by the April 6th start date. The packets will have self-addressed envelopes for parents to send completed work back to the school. These packets will be sent out and returned weekly.

Just as important as academics, student social-emotional-physical needs are a priority for us as well. Please let them know we are thinking about them, missing them and want to provide all the support we can during this time of absence from school. Each teacher will be working closely with Mrs. Firman to provide lessons in social and emotional health.

Lastly parents, we need your help more than ever. We realize this is overwhelming for you also. Stay positive. Encourage good study habits. Please have specific times for your child(ren) to study. But mostly, keep them healthy and assure them we are here for them.

Of course, this is an ever-changing situation and we will keep you up to date. If you have any questions, please call (620) 724-4327 between 8:00am and 4:00pm. You can also email the classroom teacher. They are a great resource and want to hear from you.

GMS News

During this difficult time, Girard Middle School is dedicated to providing students educational opportunities with the focus on serving all students.

GMS will be using Canvas as our main communication tool for students and parents in regards to email, lessons, assignments, and instructional videos. For the remainder of the current school year, GMS will focus on core instruction including math, English, reading, social studies and science with opportunities for some elective classes.

GMS teachers will be available for instruction and questions at scheduled times.

GMS students will continue to have access to counseling services. If any student needs immediate services, please call the GMS office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

For students who do not have an internet connection, a method for distributing and picking up packets is available. There will also be Craw-Kan Internet "hot spots" available throughout the district.

Some possible small group instruction at GMS may occur at a later date. This will be totally dependent upon the guidance of our local and state health agencies and the current health climate of our surrounding community. However, our current plans do not include any face-to-face provisions for student learning.

All formal instruction will begin on Monday, April 6th at 8:00 a.m.

GHS News

Girard High School is dedicated to providing a Continuous Education Plan designed to serve the needs of **all** students. Understanding the importance of teacher contact, teachers will continue to be available to our students through multiple platforms. GHS administrators and staff are working on the development and implementation of a plan that is consistent with KSDE guidelines.

Graduation – Seniors will continue to have the opportunity to earn credit for course work through a Continuous Education Plan that is currently being developed. Instead of the local 24 credits required to graduate, upon USD 248 Board of Education approval, this year's seniors may earn the state minimum of 21 credits, but all core course requirements must be met.

Grade Promotion – All students will continue to have the opportunity to earn credit through a Continuous Education Plan in order to be promoted to the next grade level.

Concurrent College Classes – These classes will continue and students will have the opportunity to earn college credit through Pittsburg State University and/or Fort Scott Community College.

Career Tech Students – GHS students will have the ability to finish career tech certifications after they have completed course competencies. Certification can be taken online at a later date.

GHS students will have access to counseling services through weekly contact. This includes scholarship guidance and social/emotional services. All students will have a weekly schedule to access all teachers, sponsors, and guidance services.

All formal instruction will begin at 8:00am on Monday, April 6th.