



St. Paul Lutheran School

325 North Colfax Street
West Point, Nebraska 68788



March 15, 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians:

As the list of school closings grow I want to assure you that St. Paul Lutheran School is remaining informed of the COVID-19 situation. The health and wellness of our students and school families is of utmost importance to us, therefore, we are monitoring the situation closely. We are also taking the necessary steps to ensure that our students remain well and can be educated if closing is necessary.

Please be assured that our approach to managing this situation is based on facts and supported by our faith in Jesus. We are closely listening to the experts at the Elkhorn Valley Public Health Department (EVPHD) as well as our elected leaders within the state of Nebraska.

The following information was provided by the EVPHD in regards to Governor Rickett's press conference held on 3/13/20.

"...following are the guidelines/recommendations relating to school closures due to the COVID-19 (as it pertains to schools in our particular area of the state)."

"If there is 1 case of COVID-19 community spread in ESU area that cannot be tracked to a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case, schools will be closed for 6-8 weeks in that area. Community spread means that a presumptive positive case cannot be directly linked to an already known positive COVID-19 case."

As of today (3/15/20 2:30 p.m.) there have not been any documented presumptive positive COVID-19 cases in the EVPHD (Madison, Stanton, Burt and Cuming counties).

St. Paul Lutheran School falls within the ESU 2 which is based out of Fremont but spans an area from Wisner in the north to Ashland in the south.

Currently there are no immediate plans for short term or long term closure. SPLS will continue to remain open until the EVPHD informs us of a positive test or we feel the students or staff's health could be compromised. If SPLS needs to close it will be done immediately and ask that you pray for the best but plan for the worst (6-8 week school closure).

We at St. Paul Lutheran School are going to do our best to continue your child's education if a closure takes place. The staff will be meeting Monday, March 15, 2020 after school to continue our preparations for remote learning if needed. It is possible that through our discussion that we may feel a teacher in-service day may be needed in order to further and adequately prepare for this type of learning environment. We will have more information coming to you on a continual basis throughout this process via school beacon, facebook and email.

This is not what we had planned when we began our school year. However, I know that God will bless us with the ability to continue learning in the face of adversity and hardship.

If you should have any further questions I encourage you to contact me at the school.

Prayers to all!

*Mrs. Kari Penrose, Principal/Head Teacher
St. Paul Lutheran School*