



## Update on School Closure 3-20-20

Dear District 128 Families,

We received an update from Governor Pritzker during his Press Conference this afternoon that schools will remain closed through Tuesday, April 7, 2020. He has issued a Shelter in Place order for all people in the state of Illinois beginning tomorrow. A Shelter in Place order should not significantly change how you are currently operating, if you have already been practicing social distancing. A Shelter in Place means that you can still leave your home for essential needs (groceries, bank, pharmacy, health care, food delivery will be maintained from restaurants, etc.). You can go outdoors to walk your dogs, get exercise and fresh air, but when outdoors you should exercise social distancing.

Our staff has done a phenomenal job of supporting our students. We anticipated and are prepared for the extended closure. We had worked on the development of E-Learning plans to support our students March 31 - April 3. We will be able to continue working to be prepared for April 6 and 7. We are keeping our [E-Learning page](#) updated throughout this unexpected closure. Our teachers will continue to communicate the plans as they unfold when we return from Spring Break week on March 30, 2020.

We recognize that the tentative return date of April 8, 2020 is just that, tentative. As we learn more from the Illinois State Board of Education, we will communicate more details regarding the extended E-Learning plan. We know our Independence students have their devices at home and teachers will continue to develop work and communicate it through their Google classrooms. For K-5, we are working on a plan to deploy iPads to families who do not have access to devices at home. The details related to the deployment will be sent out early next week. When that communication is sent out next week, we will need families to confirm they would like us to deliver the device and to electronically sign off on a user agreement to do so. For families in need and without internet access, Comcast Xfinity is offering free services. [Click here](#) for details.

Please remember, that our designated spring break begins on Monday, so students will have next week off to spend quality time with families. I have attached some outdoor activities you can consider doing with your families over the course of next week.

Please continue to check your email, as I will continue to keep you updated. We continue to appreciate the support from our families during this challenging time.

Together we can do this. Together we will do this.

Be Well,  
Merryl

# 30 THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR KIDS OUTSIDE

<p>Look at a cloud and say what you think it looks like. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Make a wish on a dandelion. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Explore a cobweb and make spiders cool. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Hug a tree. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Build a house for fairies. <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Read a book in the woods. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Fill a basket with nuts, leaves, and sticks that have fallen from trees. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Pick up 3 pieces of trash from outside. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Identify 3 birds. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Throw rocks in a river, pond, or puddle. <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Plant wildflowers. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Build a rock cairn. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Slide down a sand or grassy hill. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Explore a trail you have never been down. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Draw pictures in the dirt. <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Paint rocks with water and see what colors arise. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Splash in a big puddle. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Put bugs in a bowl and observe them. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Work in a garden or explore a public garden. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Pick out how many shades of green you see on a trail. <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Look for something prickly. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Sing in the rain. <input type="checkbox"/> no rain?? stick your head in a fountain or waterfall and sing!</p>	<p>Plant a seed that you find on the trail. <input type="checkbox"/> i.e. acorn, pine cone, willow fuzz</p>	<p>Have a picnic. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Find a trail with a creek and look for the animals that live in it. <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>My Trail <input type="checkbox"/> Name a trail with your own special name.</p>	<p>Make binoculars out of toilet paper rolls and spy something through them. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Make a new friend. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Walk like a duck, a deer, or a bear. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Find different items that are your child's favorite color. <input type="checkbox"/></p>