

Dear Gaston Families and Staff,

With the number of confirmed COVID-19 coronavirus cases in Oregon increasing, Governor Brown announced new guidance today regarding group gatherings and social distancing. We remain committed to keeping our school safe. In accordance with today's guidance and in order to minimize potential opportunities for the virus to spread, **we have decided to begin suspending events that bring large groups of students, adults, and community members together.** This action is not related to a presumptive case. At this time, there are no presumptive cases in Gaston.

Suspension of non-essential school-based activities begins **immediately**, effective Thursday, March 12, and will remain in effect **AT LEAST until April 8th**. This includes **the suspension of all school-based assemblies and events, off-campus field trips, and professional development meetings and events. Additionally, there will be no use of facilities by outside entities effective immediately through April 8th. With regard to athletics, we are following new state guidance barring spectators at all school-based events, with the exception of essential coaches, players, officials, and credentialed media. At this time, we are suspending the use of all community volunteers and visitors in our schools. Pick-up, drop-off, check in and check out will not be affected.** The list of affected activities will grow as we work with partners and stakeholders over the coming days. We will update you as we make those decisions.

To be clear, we are taking every step possible so that we can continue to provide high-quality education for all of our students and keep our schools open and slow the transmission of the novel coronavirus.

We realize that this decision will impact our school community, and we know that many of the events, student performances, and other gatherings that we are suspending are those that schools, students, and families look forward to all year long. Suspending these events is consistent with guidance from health authorities, and we believe it is a prudent and responsible step to take at this time. We will be working with all stakeholders who are responsible for the affected activities. In cases when we are mandated to offer access to community members (e.g., board meetings), we are currently exploring other alternatives.

The safety, health, and well-being of our students and staff is our highest priority. We will continue to work in close partnership with public health authorities to minimize both the spread of coronavirus and disruption to our school and students. We will continue emphasizing the importance of handwashing at school. Our custodians will continue to prioritize high-touch surfaces in classrooms and common areas and we are making sure our school has adequate cleaning supplies.

Students, families, and everyone in our community can best support our efforts by washing hands frequently, covering mouths when coughing or sneezing, and using hand sanitizer. Those

experiencing symptoms of the cold or flu should stay at home, only returning to school or work when symptom-free for 24 hours. If you are concerned about symptoms, please consult with a doctor.

Additional information about COVID-19 can be found at healthoregon.org/coronavirus or by calling 211. Our updates will be posted via Facebook, our website at www.gastonk12.org, and AlertNow messages.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this difficult time. We will continue to rely on the guidance from Oregon public health authorities, the Department of Education, and the Office of the Governor. Please know that this message and the decisions being made at this time are being done in collaboration with many of the State of Oregon's largest school districts, as well as Multnomah and Northwest Regional Education Service Districts. We appreciate their partnership at this time. We all collectively share the utmost concern for the health and safety of our students, employees, and communities.

At this time, here are the current activities and events that have been cancelled. Some of these events may be rescheduled. Things are changing quickly and we will update you as information becomes available.

Current cancellations:

- All after school clubs
- Field Trips
- PTO/Boosters Club - no use of facilities
- Youth Sports - no use of facilities
- Club Volleyball - no use of facilities
- Open Gym Basketball - no use of facilities
- 3-13: 5th Grade Field Trip
- 3-14: Junior Class Garage Sale Collection - no use of facilities
- 3-18: Basketball Sports Banquet at Prime Time
- 3-19: JSHS ASB Assembly
- 3-23/24: Softball in Toledo
- 4-3: STEM Day Elem