



# Independent School District #1 Aitkin Public Schools

*“A community in continuous pursuit of educational excellence for all”*

**(218) 927-2115**

**Aitkin High School and District Office**

306 2<sup>nd</sup> St NW

Aitkin, MN 56431

**Rippleside Elementary School**

225 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SW

Aitkin, MN 56431

DANIEL J. STIFTER, Superintendent

HEATHER HIPPE, Business Manager

PAUL KARELIS, High School Principal

JASON CLINE, Dean of Students

ALEX WHITE, Activities Director

ANDY DOKKEN, Elementary Principal

LARA PARKIN, Community Ed. Director

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November 17, 2020

I am reaching out today to announce that Aitkin Public Schools is shifting to distance learning for students in grades 4-12. We are making this change due to not being able to safely staff our schools and concerns about COVID transmission among students and staff when at school. Our school teams have done everything possible to cover with subs, shuffle staff, collapse sections, and teach remotely; however, we've simply reached the point at which the safety of students and staff is being compromised. We want nothing more than to be with our students every day in-person. However, at this time it is not sustainable to stay in person Pre-K through 12.

Due to these challenges, we are going to make a switch in our model of instruction. Friday, November 20, 2020 will be a **non-school** day for all students. We will be going into a Remote Learning model for grades 4-12 from Monday, November 23rd through Friday, January 15th. This will extend the current remote learning time frame for grades 7-12. Grades Pre-K through 3 will continue with in-person school following their existing schedule. We feel that as challenging as Remote Learning can be for our students, families and staff, it is even more challenging for our youngest learners. That is why we are going to continue with in-person learning for grades Pre-K through 3 at this time. We will continue to monitor data and make adjustments as needed. We are planning on continuing in this model until January 15, 2021. We will then evaluate our current data and situation as it pertains to staffing and the COVID-19 pandemic.

School buses will continue to run routes to transport students in grades Pre-K through 3 and students receiving special education services or specific interventions. Student activities & athletics will continue per the MN State High School League, Minnesota Department of Education and Minnesota Department of Health guidelines and will be monitored closely.

In our remote learning model, students are expected to log in to their classes each day at the scheduled time using Canvas and Infinite Campus. Students need to check in with their teachers to get the latest instruction and guidance for that day's class period. Daily attendance is required. Lessons will be live streamed or made available each class period on Canvas. At the High School level, each class period, students need to participate in daily lessons. High School teachers will be available to work with students while learning from home. At the Elementary level every day, students need to be engaged and participate in their learning. Rippleside teachers will be available to work with students while learning from home. New lessons and material will be presented for students every scheduled school day.

We know that internet connectivity is still a challenge for some families. Please let your school and teachers know if you do not have internet and need alternate supplies and materials. We want everyone to be successful while learning from home. If you have access to the internet, you need to utilize that as we deliver instruction using our Remote Learning Delivery system.

We have a plan to provide child care for students where both parents are essential workers. We will also provide a fee based program for families who may need child care as well. More information regarding this will be provided later this week.

Meals will be available for pick up at the school on the days that students are remote learning. Meals for our high school students will be available at the NW Secure Entry from 11:00 - 12:30 each day school is scheduled to be in session. Meal pick up for Rippleside students will change starting Monday November 23rd, our elementary meal pick up will also be at the High School from 11:00 - 12:30 each day. If you are currently picking up meals at Rippleside, starting Monday you will need to pick your meals up at the High School.

You can now choose to have meals dropped off at one of the drop off locations listed below. You will receive a hot lunch for that day and a breakfast for the next morning. There is no charge for the meals. We will be sharing a google form for families to complete to request meals. We will not be delivering meals door to door this year. **We will have a survey to complete. We will have a list of remote locations where families can pick up a lunch and breakfast for the next day every day we have a scheduled day of school. Families can choose to pick up their meals at the high school everyday and get a HOT lunch with a cold breakfast for the next day. After you schedule and you are not able to pick-up your meal for some reason, please call Jeanne Ince at 218-927-2115 ext. 3431 by 9:00 am the day that you will need to make a change. If you are currently signed up for meal drop offs, you will not need to do anything to have that extended. If your plan changes and the meals are not needed, please let us know so we can plan accordingly. If you request meals we ask that you make sure to pick them up.**

#### Meal Pick-up Locations

##### Malmo/Glen Bus:

Stop 1: Intersection of 47 & Co Rd 5 10:10-10:25

Stop 2: Intersection of Dam Lake Street & Nuthatch Rd 10:35-10:50

Stop 3: Glen Store 11:03-11:18

Stop 4: 11:30-11:45

##### Palisade Bus:

Stop 1: Intersection of 169/210 Split (Y) 10:10-10:25

Stop 2: Intersection of 210 & 5 (Canfield Store) 10:35-10:50

Stop 3: Palisade School 11:00-11:15

Stop 4: Intersection of 169 & 3 (Robinson Store) 11:25-11:40

##### Deerwood Bus:

Stop 1: Intersection of 32 (Eagle St) & Paddy Ave 10:10-10:25

Stop 2: Deerwood (Behind Thoroughbred Carpets) 10:35-10:50

Stop 3: Intersection of 133 & 10 11:05-11:20

Garrison Bus:

Stop 1: Farm Island Store 10:15-10:30

Stop 2: The Junction 10:43-10:58

Stop 3: Garrison City Park 11:10-11:25

ISD #1 students and families, this is not a decision anyone wants to make. I want our students to be here in our schools where they learn best, but COVID-19 knows no boundaries and we need to respond to protect our students, staff, and the greater community. Thank you for continuing to support our students and staff.

Take care, stay healthy, and go Gobblers!

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Stifter  
Aitkin Public Schools  
Superintendent

We Are ISD #1