



PONDER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

400 W. Bailey ★ Ponder, TX 76259 ★ (940) 479-8200 ★ www.ponderisd.net ★ Fax: (940) 479-8209

Date: 3-13-2020

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Dear Ponder ISD families,

Our administration team has been monitoring the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) with a single-minded focus on the health and well-being of our students, families, and staff. With the unprecedented and rapidly-changing circumstances occurring across the country, **we have decided to close school for March 16-20.**

Ponder ISD and many area schools will remain closed Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 20. Prior to reopening, we will assess the current climate and provide updates to everyone in the district. We have made this decision out of an abundance of caution after consulting with area health officials and area school superintendents. Although this decision was not mandated by local or state agencies, we believe this was the best course of action to minimize health risks to our community. By closing school, we hope to help flatten the curve of the epidemic and hopefully increase and allow more social distancing.

During this school closure, all campuses and the administration building will be closed. All district events and competitions are postponed and we plan to rescheduled at a later date.

Ponder ISD is researching distance-learning options if we are closed for an extended period of time.

Our administration team will continue to communicate with local and state agencies, and we will update families during this closure. We are urging students, staff and families to stay calm and follow all recommended guidelines to stay healthy.

Sincerely,
Bruce Yeager
Superintendent
Ponder ISD

Please see below a statement released by Denton County Judge Andy Eads

RELEASED: March 13, 2020 12:13 p.m.

Following is a quote from Denton County Judge Andy Eads.

Denton County is in support of schools adopting social distancing strategies. Pausing classroom teaching is an effective way to manage local transmission in communities. Delaying classroom instruction can allow students and families time to access healthcare if they are symptomatic. If students, families, or faculty members are sick, delaying school allows people time to self-monitor for symptoms, going to the doctor if sick, quarantining and isolating as necessary. These interventions help the community minimize the speed and scale of COVID19 outbreak at the local level in Denton County. The science of COVID-19 infection mitigation strategies shows minimizing morbidity and associated mortality, avoiding an epidemic peak that overwhelms health-care services, and flattening the epidemic curve to wait for vaccine development and manufacture for antiviral drug therapies is effective. The overall goal of social distancing is to minimize the exposure and transmission of COVID-19 in the community.