



Mathis Independent School District

MR. BENNY P. HERNANDEZ, SUPERINTENDENT

"Building Minds Together"

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April 16, 2020

Dear Pirate Parents and Community,

With the county's positive COVID-19 count currently at 10 and the spread of the virus increasing daily across the state, the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff should be at the forefront. Medical experts have stated that the peak of the virus has yet to be reached in Texas; therefore, the return to school on May 5th is simply not worth the risk for 17 instructional days. In the best interest of the Mathis Independent School District, we will be closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

Students belong in school. That's where they learn best; however, we also need to keep them, our staff, and their families safe and healthy. Teaching and learning will continue, it will just look a lot different for the remainder of the school year. Every school district in the state is grappling with the concept of educating students outside of the classroom. The Administrative Leadership Team has been collaborating with the Texas Education Agency, Region 2 Education Service Center, and other surrounding districts in developing an educational plan that is equitable and accessible to all students.

We will continue utilizing the "Campus Instructional Program/Grading Guidelines" that was posted online on April 9th and the Administrative Leadership Team will be monitoring and revising the program as needed. Our principals, teachers, and support staff have done an excellent job of using innovative techniques to keep our students engaged and learning. Our teachers will continue tracking and contacting their students daily. Parents, if at times our teachers seem a little overbearing please be patient. Keep in mind that we are doing this in the best educational interest of your children.

The entire faculty and staff at MISD are looking forward to the day our students return to the classroom and we get back to face to face teacher/student interactions. MISD would like to give a huge "THANK YOU" to our parents for being our partner in education during this unforeseen circumstance. Please stay positive and together we will overcome and emerge stronger than ever.

Respectfully,

Benny P. Hernández
Superintendent of Schools
Mathis Independent School District