



## Kerrville Independent School District

1009 Barnett Street  
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March 25, 2020

Dear KISD Families,

I want to provide a limited update on our school closures and our efforts to continue to educate every one of our students. “Virtual KISD” will begin the week of March 30, 2020. On Sunday, Monday and Tuesday the leadership team met and planned for this transition. On Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> teachers had virtual meetings with their campus principals to receive updates and to plan for our students’ learning. On Thursday and Friday teachers will have trainings on the framework and technology tools that we will use to provide online learning. On Thursday, KISD will send parents a digital flyer that gives an overview and guidelines for our transition to Virtual KISD.

### Student Technology Needs for “Virtual KISD”

As we transition to online learning we recognize that many students need access to the internet or a device (**smartphone, laptop/desktop or iPad/tablet**) for their online learning. Prior to Spring Break, we surveyed all of our students to determine if they had internet availability and if they had a device at home that they could use to access online learning content.

During Spring Break, KISD ordered 400 T-Mobile Cellular Hotspots that we can check out to students to take home for internet access. *We do not have a confirmed delivery date for the hotspots at this time, but expect them to be available within the next 10 days.*

*If a student has barriers to technology access that our district or the family is not able to overcome, campuses will have hard copies of “learning packets” available. Soon, each campus will provide information to families that need to request “learning packets”.*

### How Can I Check Out a Device and/or T-Mobile Internet Hotspot?

KISD will be checking out all of its (approximately 1100) technology devices to our students. The student technology survey we gave before Spring Break is our starting point for checking out devices. This week the district placed orders for several hundred Dell laptops. We do not have a confirmed delivery date at this time, but will share device availability as soon as possible.

#### Phase 1 of Device Check Out

- In Phase 1 of device check out, campuses have contacted students that told us in the survey they do not have internet access or do not have a device for online learning.
- Phase 1 device check out is happening 3/25-3/27.
- **Phase 1 device check out is only for the students the district has contacted directly (based on survey results).**

#### Phase 2 of Device Check Out

- In Phase 2 of device check out, KISD students served in Special Programs will be contacted by campuses.
- Phase 2 device check out will begin 3/30

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- Phase 2 device check out is only for the Special Program Students the district has contacted.

***We estimate that all available devices will be checked out in Phase 1 and Phase 2.***

### Phase 3 of Device Check Out

- Students not addressed in Phase 1 or Phase 2 may contact their campus to be placed on a waiting list for device check out.
- Once a device comes available, the campus will contact the student for device check out.

*If a student has barriers to technology access that our district or the family is not able to overcome, campuses will have hard copies of “learning packets” available. Soon, each campus will provide information to families that need to request “learning packets”.*

### What Device Can a Student Use for “Virtual KISD”?

Students can use practically any internet connected device to access content for “Virtual KISD”.

We suggest Kinder - 4<sup>th</sup> grade students use a tablet or iPad for online learning; however, students can also use a smartphone or a laptop/desktop for online learning.

We suggest a laptop/desktop for 5<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade students; however, in many cases an iPad, tablet or smart phone will also be effective for online learning.

**Attached** is a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document about various functions of the district during our school closure and transition to online learning.

We know this letter will spur many more questions that we must answer for our students and parents. You can expect several more updates in the coming days and weeks as we receive more information and make critical decisions. Our campuses will continue to reach out to parents and students as we begin Virtual KISD next week and throughout our school closure.

Please know that our faculty and staff are working hard to prepare to keep our students engaged and learning with “Virtual KISD”. Thank you for your continued patience and for your support of our Kerrville schools.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Foust  
Superintendent, Kerrville ISD