



March 13, 2020

Dear Evansville Community School District Families,

The health, well-being and safety of our students is our top priority. As the outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus) evolves, rest assured that we are closely monitoring the situation while providing literacy and other resources in the event of possible school closures.

In the event of an extended school closing, we want our students reading every single day. We are asking for your help and support for a routine that allows your child to read for an hour every day they are not in school. Pre-K students should be read to each day. Our K-2 students have the stamina to read for 20 minutes at a time (they read for this amount of time every day while at school), three times a day. Our grade 3-5 students should read 30 minutes twice per day. Our middle school and high school students should read for 60 minutes in one sitting per day.

On any given day in our district, the phrase *book in hand, eyes on print* is stated throughout any given classroom, particularly in our K-5 and middle school/high school English/Language Arts (ELA) environments. Literacy is the foundation of our district Continuous System Improvement plan and it is the heart of our District Mission targeting academic excellence. Students reading at home or being read to is crucial for continued student success.

We will be sending many books home with our students in preparation for a possible school closing that may occur with little warning. Our K-5 students will be coming home with their entire classroom book boxes. Our middle school/high school students will be coming home with several novels starting with the books they are currently reading in ELA and other subject areas. We will be encouraging our students to bring home additional books and to access online learning resources. We are also developing a plan for continued resources in the event of an extended closure.

Our school district team of teachers, support staff, administration and school board members recognize that the situation with the COVID-19 can change quickly. The plan we have developed does not replace classroom instruction, however, we believe a focus on literacy during a break from school is helpful in maintaining student achievement.

Please see our district [website](#) for resources and updates. Thank you for your ongoing support of our students and schools.

Sincerely,

Jerry Roth
District Administrator