



Hello Columbia Families,

Our city, our state, and much of the world are now dealing with an unprecedented public health crisis.

Since the COVID-19 coronavirus first emerged in Oregon, we have followed the guidance of our public health agency partners, including Multnomah County and the Oregon Health Authority, in making preventative changes in our school and programs. As this situation continues to progress, public health experts now believe the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Portland and Oregon will grow. Oregon Governor Kate Brown has announced that all K-12 schools in Oregon will be closed through the end of March.

We at Columbia Christian School will extend our Spring Break, beginning Monday, March 16 with a plan for students to return to school on Wednesday, April 1 (staff will be expected to return on Monday, March 30, two days earlier). During this time, all school activities, including athletic events and practices, are cancelled. We will assess and confirm or adjust return dates for students and staff, respectively, on Wednesday, March 25.

Starting Monday, March 16, and until we reopen school on April 1, campus will be closed to students. Education staff and school administrators are also expected to be out of buildings until March 30. Custodial staff will continue to clean our facilities during the extended break, prioritizing high-touch surfaces in classrooms and common areas.

Schools are essential to communities. We know that extending spring break will cause difficulties for many families. Because of this, we do not take any of these decisions lightly, but we have to be responsible not only as educators and caretakers, but as members of the larger community in which we live and work. Extending spring break is a preventative measure to help slow the rate of spread of coronavirus and, as public health agencies explain, flatten the curve of the virus's impact on our citizens and health care systems.

During the break, we encourage everyone in our community to follow recommended practices by avoiding large gatherings, washing hands frequently, and covering mouths when coughing or sneezing. Those experiencing symptoms of the cold or flu should stay at home until symptom-free for 72 hours. If you are concerned about symptoms, please consult with a doctor. Finally, you can find the latest about COVID-19 coronavirus by visiting <https://multco.us/novel-coronavirus-covid-19>.

Our goal is to minimize interruptions to the learning process as much as possible – despite not being able to gather together in physical classrooms during this time. Our administrators and faculty have been working over the past several days to prepare for a situation like this. We are pleased to share the following plan:

- K-7th grade students will receive a learning packet (sent home today), and teachers will communicate with parents daily through email
- 8th-12th grade students will have digital learning starting on Tuesday, March 17

We will continue to monitor this very dynamic public health situation and will plan to provide an update during the course of this extended break. Thank you for your support and cooperation during this time. Again, we appreciate our fellow school district leaders and colleagues from around the state for their collaboration during this critical situation.

Blessings,

The Columbia Christian Administrative Team