

April 21, 2020

Dear Union Colony family,

Below is Superintendent Pilche's letter to the community. Bottom line - all District 6 schools, charters included, will not have in-person instruction the remainder of the 19/20 school year. Some of Dr. Pilch's letter is repeated in italics.

It is critical students engage in learning during this time. We have nearly a month of school left, and we expect children to attend and engage in all their classes. It is vitally important that learning continues until the end of the school year. Parents and guardians, please continue to support your children in their learning. We know some of you are worried about your children losing out on education during this time, and it is essential remote learning continues as robustly as possible until the end of the school year.

The situation is difficult for all; but we especially feel for our seniors. *We will announce a tentative graduation schedule as soon as possible. We feel this is the only decision we can make that will protect students, staff and families. It is also important for all our graduates and families to realize that these graduation ceremonies will look very different from previous graduation ceremonies. We will defer to health officials to help us create guidelines for these ceremonies, and I will provide more information as soon as I am able.*

UC administration is working on an alternative plan. Seniors - expect to receive a survey by the end of the week. We're considering alternatives and would like your input. *We are working on a plan to distribute yearbooks, caps and gowns, personal items, transcripts, diplomas, awards and other items to our graduating seniors. We will communicate directly with seniors and their families once distribution and graduation plans are finalized.*

For now, other personal items belonging to students and staff will be kept safely at schools until they can be disbursed following health department guidelines.

I again want to thank you all for your patience, grace and support as we move through this health crisis together. It is our greatest desire that we continue to limit our health risks, so that we may be able to welcome students back to school next fall. School may look different next year, but please know we are committed to providing your students the best education possible.

Governor Polis is beginning to lift restrictions, but please continue to stay home and healthy as much as possible. It is critical we adhere to health department guidelines now so that we can get back to our schools and our lives soon.

Sincerely,

Jim Anderson

Director

Dear District 6 Families:

Today, I have made the difficult decision to cancel in-person learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. This closure includes all in-person activities and events that would have taken place through June. I must take this action because I sincerely believe it is the safest decision for our students, staff and families, and is in the best interest of our community at large.

We have been working closely with officials from the Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment throughout this health crisis. Cases of COVID-19 are still on the rise in Weld County. In-person learning would provide too great of a health risk for our community at this time.

“We are just not ready to bring students back until we can have a firm plan in place to do that safely,” said Dr. Mark Wallace, Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment. “We are working to have health guidelines in place to reopen schools in August with new protocols to keep students, staff and our community safe.”

It is critical students engage in learning during this time. We have nearly a month of school left, and we expect children to attend and engage in all their classes. It is vitally important that learning continues until the end of the school year. Parents and guardians, please continue to support your children in their learning. We know some of you are worried about your children losing out on education during this time, and it is essential remote learning continues as robustly as possible until the end of the school year.

As of now, in-person graduation ceremonies have been postponed until the last week of July or the first week of August. We will announce a tentative graduation schedule as soon as possible. We know it is not ideal and that it means that some students won't be able to attend the ceremonies. We feel this is the only decision we can make that will protect students, staff and families. It is also important for all our graduates and families to realize that these graduation ceremonies will look very different from previous graduation ceremonies. We will defer to health officials to help us create guidelines for these ceremonies, and I will provide more information as soon as I am able. We have a plan to honor our seniors at the end of the school year with a personalized video for each school and are working on a plan to distribute yearbooks, caps and gowns, personal items, transcripts, diplomas, awards and other items to our graduating seniors. We will communicate directly with seniors and their families once distribution and graduation plans are finalized.

For now, other personal items belonging to students and staff will be kept safely at schools until they can be disbursed following health department guidelines.

I again want to thank you all for your patience, grace and support as we move through this health crisis together. It is our greatest desire that we continue to limit our health risks, so that we may be able to welcome students back to school next fall. School may look different next year, but please know we are committed to providing your students the best education possible.

We know that Governor Jared Polis is planning to lift the Stay-At-Home order on Sunday, and that there will be many stringent restrictions on businesses reopening and people returning to work. We urge you to abide by these restrictions, including severely limiting your contact with people outside your household and staying home as much as possible. Please stay safe, stay home and stay healthy. It is critical we adhere to health department guidelines now so that we can get back to our schools and our lives soon. We continue to work together for the good of our students, and together we are District 6.

Kind Regards,

Deirdre Pilch, EdD
Superintendent
Greeley-Evans School District 6