

# Howells-Dodge Consolidated Schools

*Howells Attendance Center:*  
418 May Street  
P.O. Box 159  
Howells, NE 68641-0159



*Dodge Attendance Center:*  
209 Ash Street  
Dodge, NE 68633

Phone: (402) 986-1621  
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Mark Ernst, Superintendent  
Cole Fischer, 7-12 Principal/A.D.

Phone: (402) 693-2207  
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**March 20, 2020**

## **COVID-19 Educational Information/School Information**

### **Parent(s)/Guardian(s):**

As some of you may have witnessed, in the press conference held by Governor Ricketts and NDE Commissioner Matt Bloomstedt schools were tasked to develop a plan for alternative educational opportunities for students in Nebraska. Over the course of this week our teachers have been diligently preparing to provide what we can for students at Howells-Dodge Consolidated Schools. The current plan is to provide enrichment and review of material that has already been covered over the course of the first 3 quarters. Teachers will be providing enrichment activities, websites, textbooks, and material to help support your students. If you have questions on enrichment materials, please email your student's teachers for help and guidance. The teachers will be providing weekly activities and we are expecting your students to complete 2-3 activities per week per class. Students that receive special services will also have check-ins with their specific support teacher.

Teachers will send out materials between Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> and students will need to start those activities on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. I want to reiterate that currently, we will be concentrating on maintenance of learning for students in the district. Textbooks and materials will be sent home and if parents would like to have students work on material beyond what has been instructed to them as of the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, that is their prerogative. If things change, we will inform all parents and students. Our hope is to push out new content once we figure out some logistics to deliver this to all students.

We encourage students to reach out to their teachers about their current grades and what they could do to possibly improve them. They may have the ability to complete missing assignments that were given 2<sup>nd</sup> semester only. The teachers have discretion on what will be accepted. Please understand that we are doing the best we can with the current situation and information we have been given about what we can do for students. Thanks for your understanding.

**Activities/School Functions Update:** These events are cancelled per guidance of local health departments:

### **The following things have been cancelled:**

- FFA & FCCLA conferences and banquet
- Prom
- Spring Concert
- Awards Banquet – Awards/Letters will be provided to students at a later time.
- Buddy Bingo
- Field trips
- NHS Ceremony – those that were accepted are a part of NHS and will be issued their certificates.
- **If we can find a way to host some activities at the end of the year, in some capacity, we will. As of right now, we are going to take it 2 weeks at a time.**

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## The following activities have been postponed and likely cancelled:

- Spring Activities (Track & Golf) – Indefinitely Postponed
- Speech – Indefinitely Postponed

## Alternate Plan To Be Determined:

- **Graduation** – I will do everything possible to have some type of ceremony, even if it is in an alternative setting. Senior parents, when things calm down, I will reach out to all of you via email or phone.

**If we are out for a prolonged period of time and students need assistance for breakfast and lunch, please contact the school and the school will do the best we can to help out. We now have the ability to feed ages 1-18 years in our district, including the 2 parochial schools for sack breakfast and lunch. This will be a grab and go pick up between 8:00-9:00 a.m. We have already started that plan for some, but can do more in the future. Please contact the school by Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> if interested. Those that we have already been in contact with, we will start as planned. The grab and go breakfast & lunches will be available to 1-18 years in our district starting Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at both the Howells and Dodge Sites. They can be picked up by the parent or a family member.**

Please understand that these are very difficult decisions to make and wish we didn't have to go to these extremes. It pains me to have to provide this information to all of you. I do not want our students to miss out on any educational or extracurricular activities, but it is my duty to follow what guidelines that are given to me by the county governments, state government and health departments. Our teachers and administration will do whatever we can to make the best of this situation and provide parents the support that they need. Please know that we care about all of our students and want to do what we can to help out during this stressful situation. **Howells-Dodge Consolidated will be closed indefinitely with a 2-week reevaluation of the status of COVID-19.**

This is a difficult time for our communities, state, and country. Please try to stay positive, enjoy your time with your family and stay healthy through this trying ordeal. I firmly believe that we will get through this because of the strength of our communities. Please follow the guidelines that have been posted in regards to good hygiene, stay safe, and GO JAGS!!

Sincerely,

Mark Ernst  
Superintendent  
HDC