



**Cherokee County School District**  
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**Dr. Dana Fall, Superintendent**

March 30, 2020

## **IMPORTANT COVID-19 ANNOUNCEMENT**

Dear Employees and Stakeholders,

In a very short time, COVID-19 has become very concerning and has drastically changed how we live our daily lives. School districts, businesses, national, and local government entities are having to make decisions and put plans in place with many new variables. It is very concerning as a Superintendent. My primary focus is to provide our students with the proper tools and resources to obtain an education for the future. This focus has quickly centered on the safety and health of our students and staff. This includes how to sustain a district in uncertain times and how to assist our students with limited resources. Our schools not only provide students our students with an education, but they also provide security and stability. That being said, I know that most of you have questions on the district's process through this pandemic and understanding of how plans are put in place for the district. I hope that this correspondence will help explain how our decisions are being made through uncertain times. We are governed by the South Carolina State Department of Education and are required to follow guidelines, mandates, and policies put in place by SCDE. Our funding, education guidelines, and the majority of our day-to-day operations are structured around policies and procedures given by SCDE and the State of South Carolina. Through this process, we have had many conference calls with SCDE, many of which are centered on COVID-19 itself and the safety of the public. It goes without saying that all of us are navigating through uncharted waters with a destination that is not clear. As far as education, the district and SCDE are working tirelessly to make decisions based on the unknown during this pandemic. There are a lot of moving targets. SCDE recently started formulating an academic plan that will be released statewide on today. Once we know the specifics of that plan, we will release the next phase of e-learning/packets in the coming days. We are doing a pick-up of any completed work on April 1 so that we can quarantine the packets over spring break while teachers and students try to enjoy a little break. This pandemic is changing daily so please continue to follow instructions provided on official district sites.

The COVID-19 epidemic has caused many in our district and community undue hardships. It is our goal to first, keep our students and staff out of harm's way, but to also provide our students with the consistency of healthy meals, alleviating parents of one less burden. Our students are always my main concern. Since the start of our COVID-19 feeding program, there have been grave increases in the number of meals given out at all of our sites. It has been concerning and worrisome for long-term sustainability and the welfare of our students. With this pandemic expected to be ongoing for the coming months, it is in the school district's best interest to be good stewards of our funding resources so that we can continue to provide this service to our students. On Monday we had 16,000 meal packets picked-up or delivered, our student total is 8700. The USDA reimburses the district for only our students. Recently, the USDA released that we will be able to apply for a waiver to change how we will account for our meals. Our plan, IF APPROVED, will be to have an adult present with a student verification process in place for student meal recipients. This will still allow those students in need to receive our much-needed meals.

We will continue using buses for those in need and other avenues to ensure our students have plenty of opportunities to receive meals. We will continue to keep the public informed as more developments become available. I cannot stress enough how important it is for our employees, students, parents, and stakeholders to only follow-up Cherokee County School District official district information that is and will be released. We will provide you with needed updates or instructions during this time on our website and social media channels.

I am extremely proud of all our district employees during this unprecedented pandemic. I appreciate the community support and am always amazed at how many people have come together, caring for others, and assisting the needs of others during these hard times. I thank everyone for your dedication to our students, district, and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Fall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, circular initial "D".

Dr. Dana Fall  
Superintendent