



GATEWAY SCIENCE ACADEMY OF ST. LOUIS

March 16, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Out of an abundance of caution, and in consultation with local public health, Gateway Science Academy (GSA) has ordered all schools to close in order to curb the potential transmission of the coronavirus (COVID-19). **Schools will be closed tomorrow, March 17th through April 3rd.** We will reassess the situation on April 3rd and will communicate our decision.

GSA has determined options for our students to continue learning while the school is closed. Each school will communicate the alternative instruction plan with you via email, and this information will also be posted on the school websites. Please know that this plan has been shared with students today. GSA staff will be available via email Monday through Friday, with the exception of Spring Break, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm to answer questions and assist with assignments.

We understand this action may pose added hardship for some of our families. Here are some resources that may be helpful:

- Student food service will be available in the St. Louis City area. Watch for details.
- School counselors and nurses can be reached via email during the staff hours (10:00 to 2:00)
- Free Internet Service: If you don't have internet access at home, Spectrum is providing free internet. Call 1-844-488-8398
- Google classroom works on PS4 and Xbox

While your student(s) remains home, we encourage you to continue practicing good hygiene, which includes:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- STAY HOME and limit unnecessary travel and social interactions

If you feel for any reason you or your child may have or has been exposed to the novel coronavirus, please contact your doctor immediately. Virus symptoms can range from mild to severe and could include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Symptoms may appear in a few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure.

We will remain in close contact with local health public officials and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education throughout the duration of this closure and will provide updates to families as appropriate.

We encourage you to stay informed of the situation by regularly checking updates from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The State of Missouri has also activated a hotline for Missouri citizens seeking COVID-19 guidance. The number is 877-435-8411.

We understand this is a time of uncertainty and concern. We will work through this together to keep our students, families, and staff safe.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

GSA ADMINISTRATION