



Lyseth Closure FAQs - April 2020

Dear Lyseth Community Members:

There are far more questions than answers about our school closure at this moment. Lyseth's PTA generated a number of questions they feel are representative of what most of us are wondering as we move forward. We added these to questions that other members of our community have been asking. These questions and our best possible answers at this writing are in this special Frequently Asked Questions section of the Principal's Notes. NOTE: We certainly realize this is not a complete list of questions by any means. Therefore, we will include an updated FAQ section in future Notes.

Here we go:

- 1) What about conferences and April break? *This week is a four day school week. We had early release conference days for Wednesday and Thursday on our original calendar. Since conferences have been postponed/canceled, we no longer have early release. Friday is a scheduled non-school day. We WILL still be following the scheduled April break on our school calendar. Students will resume distance learning on Monday, April 27.*
- 2) My child is having trouble logging on to his class and I can't help. What should I do? *The classroom teacher is always the best starting place. Try reaching out to them by email, or by using whatever communication system you used while school was in session. If that doesn't work, you can leave a message on the school phone.*
- 3) The school device my child is using is not working. What do I do? *I recommend you start by contacting your child's classroom teacher. Describe your issues with them, and then they will be able to help you arrange tech support.*
- 4) Can students use the play structures on the playground and the school fields? *At this time the City of Portland has closed playgrounds and playing fields, per the Governor's Stay at Home order.*
- 5) What is the status of the building now? What's going on in there? *Lyseth is officially closed to the public and all staff, per District protocols. Only our custodial staff and other approved persons can enter the building. Our custodians are following a strict disinfecting protocol throughout the building. That's why the building is closed: once a space is disinfected, it is closed to all humans. If anyone enters a disinfected space, that area is then considered contaminated, and the area has to be thoroughly disinfected again.*
- 6) When will families be able to retrieve belongings? What if we have things to return, like instruments? Can an announcement be shared with the community at that time? *Please see # 5. Here's what we promise: as soon as we are given permission to safely access the building again, we will inform our community and share how this access will occur.*
- 7) Will the missed school days have to be made up? *No! At this writing, we will be following the school calendar for the rest of the year. Please check with future FAQs to keep up to date on the calendar.*
- 8) Will meals still be available? *Absolutely! Meals are distributed Monday - Friday from 10:00 - 12:00 at Lyman Moore.*

- 9) Are fifth grade end-of-the-year celebrations canceled? *No! ☒ The district and Lyseth administration recognize the need for and importance of closure for an outstanding group of students like our fifth graders. We are committed to providing our fifth graders the best possible closure we can. We all recognize the parameters of what our closure activities look like will be set by the District, acting on recommendations that come from higher levels of government. Information about fifth grade closing activities will be updated in the next FAQ section of the Notes.*
- 10) What are the expectations on students for how much school work they are supposed to do? *We hear this question a lot! There is no correct answer to this question, as there are so many variables involved. As you know, we are doing distance learning using technology as the primary connecting teaching tool between teacher and students. We recognize distance learning is a very different experience for all of us, and every teacher is striving to deliver the best online teaching experience they can for your child. We also recognize that every home is different, and distance learning is proving to be a challenge for many households. While there is no ‘correct’ answer, here’s a response I hope parents and families take to heart: The entire Lyseth staff deeply believes that all parents and family members who support our students’ learning at home are doing an amazing job, and we are so appreciative of your efforts. To that end, the answer to the original question is this: “Please try really hard to do whatever you can to help and encourage your child to connect with their learning **every day**. The critical importance of daily exposure to school work cannot be underscored. More than anything, it is this daily connection to reading, math, and writing, among other skills, that will help your child maintain previously learned skills, and be ready for new learning.” If you need an answer with more direction, then minimally, if you can get your child to engage in 30 minutes a day of reading, math, and writing, whatever that might look like in your home, you would be setting your your home student up for a smoother, more successful transition back to traditional school. Remind your child to persevere if their work is hard! We’ve talked about perseverance all year! So, if your child, with your help, does the best they can on their work every day, and submits it according to their classroom’s system, we can’t ask more than that! Thank you for all you are doing to support your child’s learning at home!*
- 11) Will students be penalized if they don’t do the expected work? *The short answer is, ‘No, children will not be penalized for not doing the expected work.’ While they will certainly not be penalized by their teacher, there may be a hidden ‘penalty’ for not doing the expected work: a loss of familiarity with the academic skills they have learned. Lyseth teachers have never worked harder to plan distance learning lessons that will help children maintain and learn new skills. As we have stated repeatedly, we believe all households will do the best they can to support their child’s home learning. If your child is unable to do the expected work for whatever reason, then please review guidance given in the previous question about minimal expectations for work completion at home.*
- 12) If families do not want to follow the assignments given by the teachers, do students have to unenroll? *Absolutely not!*
- 13) Can a student opt out of video calls with their teacher and only join by audio? *Of course! What we would hope for more than anything is for students to engage with their teachers **daily** in whatever format is most comfortable for them.*
- 14) Is there going to be any type of summer programming? *The District has begun very preliminary discussions to explore possible summer program offerings. Please stay tuned!*