



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY
AMERICAS
MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT
FORT BRAGG/CUBA COMMUNITY
4474 BASTOGNE DRIVE, BLDG. B-5356
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DATE: March 24, 2020

W.T. Sampson School will be open for staff and students on Tuesday, March 24, with an 11:45 dismissal. Please know that after that dismissal, W.T. Sampson School will be closed until further notice. It is imperative that students pick up all their learning materials and take them home. Online learning for students will start in the days to come. Information concerning online learning will be communicated to parents prior to March 30, 2020.

The Department of Defense Education Activity Americas, Mid Atlantic District, collaborated with Guantanamo Bay Naval Base Command leadership in recommending closure of W.T. Sampson School from mid-day Tuesday until further notice.

We appreciate the patience and understanding of our students' parents as they support our efforts to maintain continuity of education. We have plans in place at the district and school-level, and DoDEA headquarters is committed to providing schools with all the resources necessary to continue the educational process. The district will review conditions and publish an update each Friday by 5 p.m. on our local school web pages.

Here is a list of the changes:

- **Tuesday, noon, March 24, 2020 DoDEA school, W.T. Sampson will be closed to students as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.** This action is being taken as a prudent measure to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). At this time, students should not report back to school until further notice. Staff will report at the usual time to begin training for leading the online learning for students.
- **All school extracurricular activities are canceled/postponed effective immediately.** This includes, but is not limited to, all scholastic and athletic competitions, sports practices, music/drama/arts performance, school trips and any other extra-curricular activities, to include PTO events. Additionally, this includes outside groups that meet at our schools.
- **Tuesday, March 24, 2020, after student dismissal, staff will participate in Professional Learning activities.**
- **Wednesday, March 25 through Friday, March 27, 2020 will be teacher and staff workdays for online learning training.** This will allow administrators and staff to collaborate and prepare to ensure continuity of instruction for online teaching. Starting at 12:30 PM, the school staff will test the communication and connectivity with the parents and/or students. The teachers, including elective and specials teachers, will do this by sending message(s) via Schoology and/or Google Classroom, Google Meet, Google Hangouts chat, and/or email. Teachers who have been

communicating and using Schoology or the Google platform with their students will continue to do this through Friday afternoon as part of this test.

- **Students can expect to begin receiving assignments no later than Monday, March 30.** Students will be expected to complete online learning assignments and/or work packets as assigned by their classroom teachers. The school administration and teachers will be sending out additional information related to this expectation by close of business Friday, March 27, 2020.

We recognize the hardship this decision places on many families, but believe it is in the public's best interest if it means we can contribute to protecting our students as well as the community's health and well-being.

Visit DoDEA's official website for information on COVID-19, highlighting associated impacts as well as response and prevention efforts, at: <https://www.dodea.edu/Coronavirus.cfm>. Please check back regularly for updates.

Also, we ask families to continue following the COVID-19/coronavirus guidelines as shared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that are posted on its website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>. These include monitoring family members' health for flu-like symptoms and reaching out to a local health provider if these symptoms occur.

Please know that this is a unique situation for DoDEA schools and the nation. We do not yet have all the answers but are committed to communicating with the W.T. Sampson community as frequently and openly as possible. DoDEA and Guantanamo Bay Naval Base Command leadership will continue to coordinate closely to ensure accurate and timely information is available and to encourage all appropriate measures to help prevent the spread of the virus.

V/r

Kathy Strobe-Downs
Ft. Bragg Community Superintendent
Mid Atlantic District/DoDEA