



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY
AMERICAS
MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT, QUANTICO FIELD OFFICE
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QUANTICO, VA 22134
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DATE: March 16, 2020

Dahlgren Community Schools buildings to be closed to students until further notice; Online learning starts March 18, 2020

The Department of Defense Education Activity Americas Region and Dahlgren leadership are following Virginia Governor Ralph Northam recommendation to close in-person classes for at least the next two weeks, beginning March 16, 2020. The Dahlgren School will be closed 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. 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:

- **Monday, March 16, 2020 DoDEA Dahlgren School 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 online training.
- **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. Additionally, this includes outside groups that meet at our schools.
- **Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17, 2020 will be teacher and staff workdays.** This will allow administrators and staff to collaborate and prepare to ensure continuity of instruction for online teaching.
- **Wednesday, March 18, 2020 students can expect to begin receiving assignments.** Students will be expected to complete online learning assignments and/or work packets as assigned by their classroom teachers. School principals and teachers will be sending out additional information related to this expectation by March 19, 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 West Point Community Schools family as frequently and openly as possible. DoDEA and West Point 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.

Helen Balilo
NY VA Community Superintendent