LANE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 71 Lowell/Fall Creek

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Good evening Lowell families,

Today has been a whirlwind of information as we collectively look for ways to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus. We began with firm intentions to remain vigilant in our practices to keep schools healthy and safe educational environments as well as for schools to remain open and provide the high-quality education and needed social services to the students and families of Lowell.

We have kept our schools open and healthy for as long as recommended by state and local public health authorities. We know that in addition to education, schools provide vital support to our community and families and that closure will have a major impact on our families.

At 10:20 pm Governor Brown issued an executive order closing all schools in Oregon beginning March 16, until Wednesday, April 1. All Lowell School District Schools will close to students effective Monday, March 16. Currently, there are NO known cases associated with Lowell schools.

Friday, March 13, is the last day of school, including athletics, activities and clubs for students. Friday, is a regularly scheduled day and school offices will remain open throughout the afternoon so that students and families can collect their belongings, and medication in advance of the extended break.

We understand that extended school closure will create hardship for many families. The school day is the centerpiece of the lives of many people. Children count on the reliable routine that the school day offers, from the classroom setting to the many people at school who know them, care for them, and provide recognition of them five days a week.

Families, too, count on that routine and the knowledge that their children are cared for during the day. Contemplating additional time without that structure and care may seem overwhelming. Please know, Lowell School District is doing our very best to make decisions that will help care for all of us as we navigate this challenge. This will include making to-go meals available to students **beginning**Monday, March 16, at Lundy Elementary from 11am -1 pm.

On March 30, staff will report to buildings to work to assess the status of the coronavirus in Oregon and prepare to welcome students returning Wednesday, April, 1.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding as we continue to work through this difficult situation. We will get through this together as a community.

Lowell School District