



# **KNOB NOSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Dr. Jerrod Wheeler, Superintendent | Mr. Michael Cohron, Assistant Superintendent | Mrs. Deenia Hocker, Director of Student Services  
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Date: 1-11-2022  
To: All WE Parents/Guardians and Staff  
From: Jerrod Wheeler  
RE: Whiteman Elementary Shutdown

Dear Whiteman Elementary Parents/Guardians and Staff:

As you are most likely aware, the prevalence of the COVID Omicron variant and non-COVID related flu illness is resulting in a significant impact in many areas. Within Knob Noster Public Schools, we are experiencing a unique anomaly in that our illnesses and absences at Whiteman Elementary are significantly elevated this week, whereas our other three buildings are remaining relatively normal at this time. At Whiteman, we are approaching a point in which we will have significant challenge and disruption in staffing our building. Meanwhile, our student attendance at Whiteman has dropped to 80% +/- . We believe this is related, in part, to the current elevated cases of exposure within the Whiteman AFB child services areas, where we closely share students.

In conjunction with the base down day this Friday and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday next Monday, we are imposing an additional three-day shutdown for **WHITEMAN ELEMENTARY ONLY**. This includes all programs which operate from that facility: Whiteman K-5, Little Wingmen, Title I, and Early Childhood Special Education. This shutdown will occur Wednesday, January 12, Thursday, January 13, and Friday, January 14. This will create a contiguous six-day period to allow for recovery/separation to assist with this situation. During this period, the district will not provide remote learning. Currently, we do not plan to make these days up for students.

This shutdown is exclusive to students attending Whiteman Elementary. Currently, we are not experiencing significant elevated illnesses or absences at our other three locations. We will continue to closely monitor those locations for any need to take further action. We will alert parents of any changes.

Faculty and staff who are healthy will be expected to report to the building to assist our team in completing a deep cleaning of the facility, while also completing other essential work functions.

As always, we thank our parents and community for your ongoing partnership and flexibility as we navigate through these challenging times. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Wasson or me.

Very Respectfully,

Jerrod Wheeler, Ed.D.  
Superintendent