



March 15, 2024

Dear National School District Families,

As we approach a much-awaited spring break, I want to express my gratitude for your participation in parent-teacher conferences held this week. Spring break for National School District will be observed from March 18, 2024, to April 1, 2024, with classes resuming on **Tuesday, April 2, 2024**.

I also wanted to take a moment to update you on several important matters regarding the safety and well-being of our students and staff. First, schools will be sending home COVID-19 tests with students. While we encourage you to test your children before returning from break, these tests can be used at any time, and remain effective for 12 months past any listed expiration dates.

Additionally, I want to acknowledge the ongoing repairs to our classrooms that were damaged by the flooding in January. Please rest assured that we have been diligently working to expedite the process using emergency provisions. We have been vigilant in ensuring that any potential hazards, such as asbestos and mold, are addressed thoroughly; and anticipate having all affected rooms ready for use the week we return from spring break. Families personally affected by the floods can contact their school for resources and find information for FEMA assistance on our website or by calling 1-800-621-3362.

Furthermore, we are currently in the process of replacing play structures and adding turf at our schools to ensure safety and accessibility for all students. This is a lengthy multi-step process because it involves large purchases with public funds, and an approval process to ensure all are safety compliant. Play structures are anticipated to be installed by this summer with turf finalized by the end of 2024.

I am beyond thrilled to share that National School District has also been recognized as the first elementary-only heart-safe district in the nation. We have taken significant steps to ensure cardiac safety on all our campuses by installing additional automated external defibrillators (AEDs), providing training to staff and students, and conducting cardiac emergency response drills.

Finally, we are actively working on enhancing our safety measures by finalizing specifications for keyless entry and exploring the implementation of a personal emergency alert system for staff. Our Governing Board recently approved Comprehensive Safety Plans for each site, and a public version is available at each site for review.

Your child's safety is our top priority, and we will continue to implement measures to protect their well-being. Looking ahead, state testing for students in grades 3-6 is scheduled for early May. Regular attendance is crucial to ensure that students are adequately prepared to demonstrate their learning during these assessments. Thank you for your continued support, and I wish your family a restful and enjoyable spring break.

Warm regards,

Leighangela Brady, Ed.D.  
Superintendent National School District