



Dear OEA Colleagues,

We are in Day 3 of the COVID-19 closure and I am sure your anxiety has been kicked up a notch – and understandably so! We will continue to address items and questions as they arise. Several of you have emailed or called me regarding concerns. I will address some of them below:

You all should have received an email from your Principals regarding plans to allow students and families to collect personal items, workbooks or consumables, all textbooks that a student may need, musical instruments and physical education clothing. That plan will look different at every building.

Know that the district has specifically stated that health and safety is of utmost priority. Each building has developed a plan to collect and distribute the items to the students and families that best meets their needs. Follow your building's plan and the advice of health experts: No groups larger than 10 will be in the building at a time.

Regarding your personal items, you are only asked to take the essentials to continue your engaging lessons and items you will need at home. You are NOT being asked to take down your classroom or box up your room for the end of the year.

Below are a few concerns I have received.

Why Now?

It has taken some time to make a plan that best serves our students. They need their consumables for various subjects to continue the academic learning.

Doesn't this affect the community health risk?

The plans are to follow the recommendation of health experts regarding the clustering of individuals: No more than 10 individuals should be gathered in one place at a time.

Do I have to go into the building and do this?

No, you do not. It is not required, but you need to notify your principal.

What happens when the students all come at once?

Parents are being told when to come to the buildings to collect their things by your school. If your building has 600 students, know that not all of them will be there at one time. My understanding is that there are directions to follow and systems in place to ensure families collect their items in an appropriate fashion.

Is this safe and being considerate to those of us who may be asymptomatic?

As with the food preparation and distribution efforts, those who wish to come to the school may. Those who choose not to come in are to let their principal know (see above). The distribution of food has been successful because individuals are following the plan set forth. Safety is the focus. No one (teachers, paras and other staff) will be required to come in.

Know that OEA has been advocating for what is safe, reasonable and equitable during this time. Many decisions continue to be made as I write this message and will likely inform my message to you tomorrow!

Step back, take a breath, and allow grace for those making decisions. We are all going to get through this! Reach out if you have questions.

Be well,

Robert

OEA President

Deadlines and other info

- **Probationary teachers should sign their contract by the due date. If you have a need to resign, you can still do that as long as you meet the district deadline of May 1 at 5:00p.m. for resignations.**
- **Transfer process is still happening. Interviews are taking place and communication is being sent out to those individuals regarding status.**
- **Be sure to check your email daily for information coming from OPS and OEA! If your home email address has changed, please let me know and we can get it corrected on our records.**