We are all in uncharted territory at the moment, so it’s important that we remain patient and flexible as new information presents itself. Please continue to check your district email, the Polk County Schools website, and social media pages for Polk County Schools and PEA for all new and updated information. Thank you for all you do and stay safe and well.

**FAQ regarding the school closure due to COVID-19:**

- **What happens to staff that don’t have enough sick time in the event they must self-isolate even after we return to school?**
  - PCPS, the Polk Education Association, and AFSCME have agreed that any employee who has been diagnosed with coronavirus, or anyone who has been directed to self-isolate by a medical professional or government agency, will be put on paid administrative leave for the duration of their isolation. Documentation of the diagnosis will be required.
  - Employees choosing to self-isolate out of concern for their health or the health of others must follow normal work rules, which cover sick leave, vacation or other leave policies. Leave should be requested from their supervisor. Please note, employees in an unpaid leave status will not be disciplined.

- **Will employees be paid during Polk’s school closure from March 16-20?**
  - Yes. The March paycheck has also been moved up to Friday, March 20th.

- **Will the school year be extended because of this closure?**
  - If we return to school on the **tentative** return date of Monday, March 30th, the school year will not be extended. The State is treating this closure like hurricane days. If schools must continue the closure past this tentative date, school districts will have to receive guidance from the Governor and the Department of Education.

- **Are 3rd quarter grades due on Tuesday, March 17th?**
  - No. After discussion between principals and PEA regarding 3rd quarter grades, we have agreed that in the best interest of our students and in an effort to reduce your work load upon your return to school, **grades for the 3rd quarter should be entered into FOCUS no later than Friday, March 20 at 5:00 pm**. Please contact your principal/administrator if you have any questions or concerns.

- **Will my second semester SAO deadline for next week be extended?**
  - Yes. Updated deadlines will be communicated once we’re either back at school on Monday, March 30th, through district email, and/or once the district knows if the closure will be extended past the tentative return date.

- **Will schools be providing meals for students during the week of March 16-20?**
  - Yes, at certain locations starting Tuesday, March 17th-Friday, March 20th. Meals will not be served during our regularly scheduled spring break time.
Will the teacher ratification ballot count be postponed?
  - No. The District Courier picked up teacher ratification ballots from all worksites on Monday, March 16th. If teachers haven’t turned in their ratification ballot, they can bring their ballot to the PEA Office until Wednesday, March 18th at 5pm. PEA will still count ballots Wednesday, March 18th at 5pm. If you need a replacement ballot, you must come to the PEA Office before Wednesday, March 18th at 5pm.