Friday, April 3, 2020

Dear Lansing School District Families and Staff:

Yesterday, Governor Whitmer issued Executive Order 2020-35, which has a dramatic and direct impact on our work here at the Lansing School District. Most critically, the order mandates that schools buildings must remain closed through June 30, 2020, effectively ending any hope for finishing the 2019-20 school in any sort of traditional fashion.

Beyond that, the order dictates that all schools must develop a “Continuity of Learning” plan establishing a roadmap for moving forward with remote instruction. Those plans must be approved by the state and communicated to families no later than April 28, at which point we will begin working with your student to continue their learning for the 2019-20 academic year.

Those are the topline takeaways from the Governor’s order. It’s important to note, however, that the document in its entirety is much more detailed and nuanced. In total, the order is 17 pages long. Digesting and fully understanding the scope of the requirements it establishes will take some time. With that said, we ask that you are patient with us as we work to develop the path forward that best serves our students while remaining in compliance with these new directives from the Governor’s office. I have every bit of faith in our team here at the district to deliver on that charge.

The order also addresses the matter of how to advance students though the K–12 system. In short, students in grades K–11 will move on to the next grade level and students on track to graduate this year will graduate. For families with students that will still be with us next year, please rest assured knowing that we are working to develop a plan to address and establish your child’s readiness for the next grade level come the 2020–21 school year.

And to our graduating seniors and their families, we’ll be in touch with you soon to advise you of next steps. We absolutely hope that we can find a way to give you the commencement ceremony you deserve. However, at this time, there is still too much uncertainty to know if that sort of celebration will be possible and how it may work. As this situation continues to develop, addressing those questions will be at the top of our list, and we will keep you abreast of any developments as they come.

Lastly, please do your best to stay safe during these uncertain times. As you all know, everything in this order from Governor Whitmer is in the interest protecting Michigan’s students and families from the growing COVID-19 pandemic.

(more)
The health and safety of you and your loved ones is what’s paramount at this time, so please continue to remain vigilant in following the expert advice of our nation’s health officials: wash your hands often, practice social distancing, and if you can, please stay home.

If you need meal assistance, we will continue to provide food distribution at one of our distribution sites. Please visit LansingSchools.net for additional details.

Thank you again for your continued support and understanding through this. We will eventually come out stronger on the other side. In the meantime, stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,

Sam Sinicropi
Interim Superintendent

Superintendent’s Executive Team

Delsa Chapman, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent

Camela Diaz, Ed.D.
Associate Superintendent for Student Learning

Jessica Benavides
Executive Director for School Improvement

Cordelia Black
Executive Director for School Culture

Jon Laing
Chief Financial Officer

Suzy Corbin
Executive Director of Human Resources

Eldon McGraw
Director of Communications and Outreach

P: 517.755.1010
lansingschools.net
lansingpathwaypromise.net
519 W. Kalamazoo St.
Lansing, MI 48911

Home of the Lansing Pathway Promise