



April 2, 2020

Dear WPS Families and Community,

Thank you for your continued patience and trust. There is no question that we are experiencing a school year that we never imagined. As human beings, we plan, prepare, and organize our lives. We know what is coming up and we are ready for what life brings. Until we're thrown a curveball. We, along with the rest of the world, are in the midst of a health crisis we couldn't have prepared for. The health, safety, and well-being of our students and educators is our top priority. I, and our WPS team, appreciate your willingness to allow us to thoughtfully prepare for the remainder of the school year, in what we hope will be the best way to support our students, families, and community.

As I'm sure you know, Governor Whitmer has ordered schools to close for the remainder of the school year to ensure the continued safety of students and their families as this contagious virus continues to spread. The Governor also asked that each school district and its staff provide instructional materials and opportunities for students to continue their education during this crisis. We will have a remote learning plan for your student(s) that you will receive additional information about, including the start date, in the days to come. That will mean our staff will provide online learning resources to students and their families. If an online method is not conducive to success for a particular student, a printed learning packet will be made available.

In addition to providing academic guidance and support for our students and families, we are working closely with the Kent ISD and the Michigan Department of Education to meet other needs and answer additional questions you may have. These may include the following:

Food Distribution: Food distribution will continue at West Elementary and Wyoming Junior High every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12:00-1:00 until further notice. If your family is in need of support with food, please take advantage of these opportunities.

Graduation: We expect all students who were on track to successfully meet all state and district requirements to graduate.

Seniors, Our Amazing Class of 2020: We know, and understand, that completing high school in this way is not what you had planned, and likely creates unsettled feelings. As we move toward the end of the school year and your graduation, **please be assured that we are absolutely committed to celebrating your incredible accomplishment with you, your families, and our staff who are unbelievably proud of you!** We will share more information as it becomes available, including the date, time, location, and any other needed details.

Athletics/Extracurricular Activities: All activities are cancelled for the remainder of the school year per the Governor's executive order. As a large number of our students and families participate in these activities, this cancellation causes frustration and disappointment for many. Please know this - our community is very proud of you and the efforts you displayed throughout



the season/activity (drama, band, club, etc.) in which you participated. We look forward to continuing to support all of you when we are able to resume, whenever that may be. We are #WYOstrong and will continue to demonstrate our WolfPack spirit.

State Assessments: We are not planning for any state assessments to occur this spring. The Michigan Department of Education received a Federal Waiver for State Assessments. We still need the state legislature to approve waiving those components of state law as it pertains to accountability and we expect action in this area to be taken soon.

School Playgrounds: Due to last week's recommendation from the Kent County Health Department, we are reminding everyone that our school facilities and grounds remain closed and we ask that everyone abide by any and all signage restricting access.

Questions/Information: If you have further questions regarding school-related issues and our Wyoming Public Schools plan, please visit our website at www.wyomingps.org, and use the "Contact Us" tab. We will make our best attempts to answer questions and concerns as soon as we are able.

Please know that your Wyoming Public Schools administration and staff have been working nonstop to meet the needs of our students and families and will continue to do so throughout the duration of this suspension of normal school operations and activities. I am deeply grateful to our staff for all the support they have been providing our students and community since this time of uncertainty began.

Working together, with our teachers, our support staff and our caring and supportive parents, we can continue our children's education, we can give them the support and guidance they need, and we can ensure their safety, and the safety of our families and our community.

Again, I thank you for your support, patience, and trust as we partner in navigating uncharted waters to provide the best support for our entire Wyoming Public Schools family.

We are #BetterTogetherWPS

Craig Hoekstra
Superintendent
Go Wolves!