

Hillsdale Community Schools

30 South Norwood Avenue
Hillsdale, Michigan 49242
517-437-4401

March 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Students of Hillsdale Community Schools,

In an attempt to slow the spread of the coronavirus, Governor Whitmer has ordered the mandatory closure of all K-12 schools throughout the state, effective Monday, March 16 until Monday, April 6, 2020. This is an unexpected closure of the schools for two weeks prior to our scheduled Spring Break of March 30th - April 3rd. Based on this statewide plan, we are scheduled to resume normal school days on Monday, April 6th.

We are in uncharted territory and it is understandable to experience a variety of emotions including confusion, fear and anxiety. By using the recommended actions to help prevent the spread of viruses, each of us can contribute to the most positive outcome possible. These strategies are:

1. Learn about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Symptoms include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.
2. If you have respiratory symptoms, STAY HOME WHEN YOU ARE SICK. Call your health care provider's office in advance of your visit.
3. Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, like doorknobs, keyboards, cell phones, and light switches.
4. Communicate and reinforce best practices for washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes.
5. Be prepared if there is COVID-19 in your household or there is a disruption of daily activities in the community. For example, maintain a supply of medications, food, and other essentials in your house. Consider alternative shopping options such as curbside pickups or online deliveries.
6. Access services as much as possible online or by phone.

Our school district will stay in direct contact with the health professionals and update the district's action plan as needed. We will post updated information on our district website and our official social media outlets. We will also use the automated calling system as needed for specific time sensitive updates.

Website Address - www.hillsdaleschools.org

Facebook Site - Hillsdale Community Schools

Twitter Feed - @HillsdaleSchool

Resources for additional information on COVID-19 can be found at the following links:

www.bhsj.org

www.michigan.gov/coronavirus

www.coronavirus.gov

School Offices: There will be staff at the school to conduct necessary work. This includes office personnel. This includes helping students and families with specific needs. We encourage everyone to use email and phone calls as much as possible. This will reduce the amount of personal contact necessary and it allows staff to respond to your needs in a timely manner. Please avoid just, "stopping in" to the schools. We are in a unique circumstance and our staff may have to complete work at non-standard times.



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School Work: Teachers put together some immediate activities for students. These initial items vary by the class and grade level. Our teachers will create additional activities and plans to support learning at home during the school closure period. That information will be sent by email in the **Tuesday Update**. Teachers have been using a couple of other forms of communication with their students and will continue to use these tools as well.

Hillsdale High School Classes = Google Classroom
Horizon High School Classes = Edgenuity
Davis Middle School Classes = Google Classroom
Gier Elementary School Classes = Classroom Dojo
Bailey Early Childhood Center Classes = Classroom Dojo

Updates are scheduled for release on Tuesday, March 17th & Tuesday, March 24th. If your child needs a paper copy of the materials, please contact the school office by phone or email and a packet will be prepared for him/her.

Athletic Teams: All practices and competitions are cancelled until further notice.

Extra-Curricular Clubs/Groups: All meetings and events for clubs are cancelled until further notice.

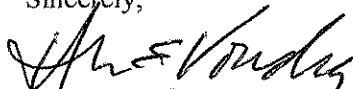
Personal Items: Students were directed to take personal possessions home. Should you discover a need for personal items that remained at school, you may contact your child's school office by phone or email to arrange a time to pick up those items.

Medications: Please contact the school office by phone or email to arrange a time to pick up those items.

Lunch Program: The district has the capacity to provide lunches for students during the next two weeks. We are developing a schedule for offering a lunch program for students. It will most likely take the format of a "to go" lunch. The specific details will be sent out in the **Tuesday Update** on March 17th.

We are certainly living in interesting times. If our school district can be of further assistance to your family during this time, please feel free to contact me by email at shawn.vondra@hillsdaleschools. We appreciate every one of our students, parents, and staff for being creative and working through this unusual situation.

Sincerely,


Shawn Vondra
Superintendent

