



“Durand Area Schools is a Model District Where Students Want to Be”

3/12/20

Dear Durand Area Schools Parents and Guardians,

Earlier this morning I was in Robert Kerr Elementary talking with teachers and support staff about how the events surrounding the state’s response to the coronavirus seemed to unfold hourly and right in front of our eyes. In a sense, I feel like I’m in the middle of watching history unfold and though it has been interesting to say the least, it has also caused a tremendous amount of anxiety, uncertainty, and fear for students, staff, and our families. I can’t promise this letter will be brief and to the point, as I feel it is important for our school community to have a solid sense of the district’s response to the coronavirus pandemic and the plans we have in place for our children.

Three times this week the county superintendents met with or had conference calls with the Shiawassee County Health Department to prepare our districts for this current health crisis. We are all working together to navigate through this ever evolving situation. Also, this morning at 11:00 a.m. I met with representatives of key district groups to solicit their opinions on the many variables that go into this coronavirus equation. Member leadership from the Durand Education Association, Durand Educational Support Personnel Association (busing/maintenance), Michigan Education Support Personnel Association (paraprofessionals, lunch/building aides) attended. Also present were multiple teacher building representatives from BN, RK, the MS and HS, along with directors from food service, technology, transportation, and maintenance. This was my opportunity to listen to the leadership from all corners of the district and better understand the questions and concerns, and frankly, anxieties each group brought to the table. It was also a time to share my vision for how the district would respond to this pandemic.

This team provided me with multiple concepts and ideas to bring to our administrative team meeting which occurred shortly after. By late afternoon, the district leadership team made several key decisions and I would like to share those with you in this letter. We are operating on this premise: We at all times will look out for the safety of our students and staff. As you know, the situation is fluid and changing literally by the hour, and after consulting with the Shiawassee County Health Department (SCHD), we have made the following decisions based on their recommendations and those from Governor Whitmer:

1. Field trips are canceled through April 12, 2020.
2. All non-essential school activities are canceled as well. School groups will send out communications for events canceled, as there are too many to list here.
3. All athletic practices will continue but we will follow MHSAA guidelines.

4. Bertha Neal and Robert Kerr Elementary schools are preparing core instruction packets for students to take home in the event that the schools face closure.
5. All attendance incentives will be put on hold until further notice. The deadline used will be 3/6/20.
6. On Friday, March 13 2020, buildings will conduct locker clean outs so our cleaning crews can conduct a deep clean in as many areas as possible. Overtime for current cleaning staff and additional cleaners will be utilized as needed.
7. Rubber gloves and additional bottles of hand soap and hand sanitizer will be made available to each building.
8. Building principals will be reaching out to families of known medically fragile students to discuss health and safety concerns/plans with parents/guardians. Please contact your building principal for support in this area if there is a health concern they should know about.
9. Teachers are setting aside additional time and staggering dismissal to make sure students are washing hands throughout the day and before lunch. We are also emphasizing washing hands before returning home. We are being mindful of our elderly population, which is being hit the hardest by the coronavirus.
10. Kindergarten registration will continue as planned.
11. Plans are being made between food service and transportation in the event that schools are forced to close. We are exploring ways to deliver meals to students in need.
12. HS online students will be able to check out Chromebook's as needed to continue online studies.
13. Our goal is to continue school business and instruction as close to normal as we can, given the circumstances.

Though we are wading into uncharted waters, please know that student and staff safety will drive our decisions as we navigate through these unprecedented times. Thank you in advance for your patience.

Very Sincerely,

Craig McCrumb
Durand Area Schools Superintendent.