



COLOMA

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

INSPIRE TO ACHIEVE - EMPOWER FOR SUCCESS

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

This morning the Michigan Department of Education published a memo that is now the focus of several social media and news outlet posts. In the memo, MDE explains that *"there is no mechanism to earn instruction time during a period of school closure."* This statement is causing many to ask why Coloma Community Schools, and other districts, are providing educational opportunities to our students online or otherwise.

Our response to this is that Coloma Community Schools believes that we have a moral and legal obligation as educators to educate our students and we will continue to provide meaningful enrichment opportunities for our students during the school closure. We are very appreciative of the fact that our staff shares this belief and has worked very hard to provide remote learning opportunities to our students.

In addition, Coloma Community Schools never assumed or even thought that remote learning opportunities would count towards instructional time or days. The Michigan Revised School Code simply does not have this covered within as an option (*in part because what we are dealing with is unprecedented*). The goal in creating remote learning opportunities was and continues to be keeping students in a routine and engaged. We are hopeful that this will support a smooth transition back into school so that we do not lose instructional time getting our students reacclimated once we return.

There are still more questions than answers with regards to the Governor's mandated school closure and as information becomes available, I will share it with you!

Thank you to our staff for providing these opportunities to our students and to you for your support!

#CometPride

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Ehlers".

Dave Ehlers
Superintendent