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Clio Area Schools

Clio, Michigan 48420

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BEKY SILKWORTH, *Assistant Superintendent of Business Services*



March 23, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As we move into our second full week of school closure due to the Coronavirus, I want to provide an update of our school schedule and clarify some outstanding issues. The focus this week is to provide meaningful educational activities for our students, continue to feed our students daily as well as over break, and continue to develop and share resources to assist parents working at home with their children.

Our teachers will continue to work from home and make contact with parents/students a minimum of three times per week. Elementary educational packets were distributed today for the upcoming week and secondary teachers are utilizing online/packet materials.

In accordance with the Governor's directive today, ALL school buildings will be completely shut down this evening except for the cafeterias at the high school, middle school and Garner elementary. No employees will report to work except for food service personnel and volunteers needed to assist with food distribution. Building administrators will be working from home and responding to calls and emails. The main telephone lines in each building will be forwarded to the building principal or to his/her designee. The telephone lines in the administration building will be forwarded and answered as well.

Food pickup will continue daily from 10 am to 1 pm at the high school, Garner Elementary, New Covenant Church, and Community Church of God through Friday, March 27th. Food delivery to homes will continue to be available all week to any student if requested by parents.

Thursday, March 26th, beginning at 8 am, we will run established bus routes and deliver five breakfasts to **ALL** students who ride or are assigned to ride our busses as well as siblings in the home ages 0-18. The breakfasts are provided to cover the week of March 30th - April 3rd. Friday afternoon, we will run established bus routes and deliver five lunches to ALL students who ride our busses as well as siblings in the home ages 0-18. Students who walk to the high school and middle school may pick up breakfasts on Thursday at the high school or middle school from 10 am to 1 pm on Friday. Lunches will be available for walkers on Friday at the middle school and the high school from 10 am to 1 pm. A separate communication addressing the distribution of meals on Thursday and Friday will be posted Tuesday, March 23, 2020 on the district website.

The memorandum from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) addressing online learning that was published on Friday caused quite a stir and controversy. The MDE notice stated that no further online learning programs would be approved and indicated that the work students are currently doing would not count toward days and hours of instruction. Assumptions and rumors have been rampant since that time. Governor Whitmer subsequently published a memorandum (it is posted on our website) to clarify exactly what was meant by the MDE memo. What is important is what the memorandum did NOT say. The memorandum did not say that days

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would not be forgiven. It did not say that we will have to make up time missed. It did not say we will go to school all summer. It did not say seniors will not graduate. It did not say there will be no proms, graduations, Kindergarten roundups, etc. Many of those issues are out of our control, such as whether days will or will not be forgiven. Decisions will be made and we will be advised - and common sense will prevail. Other decisions, like graduation, are up to us. We may not have graduation as scheduled on May 31st - but if we have to cancel it, we WILL make it a priority to have a graduation ceremony at another time for our seniors!

Please take time each day to share educational activities with your elementary children. Read to them daily, have them read to you - or to an older sibling. Teachers are preparing packets for all students in grades six through eight and will continue to do so each week we are closed. High school teachers, and some middle school teachers, are working with students in an online environment. It is very important that students continue to engage in learning each and every day. Seniors? We are committed to providing the material that seniors will miss during the closure of the district. It is extremely important that seniors continue to progress so the transition to college and into the workforce next fall will be as smooth as possible.

Finally, while all of us hope the shutdown will end on April 12th and we can return to normal, we know it is possible it will continue. Accordingly, administrators and teachers will be focused this week on developing a plan to implement on April 13th and moving forward.

None of us have ever seen a situation of this nature and I certainly hope that we never will again. Now is the time to keep things as "normal" as we can for our children. Follow the precautions published by the CDC and the Genesee County Health Department. If we work together, we will come through this stronger than when we started.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if you would like additional information. I can be reached at fspears@clioschools.org or 810-591-7490.

Respectfully,

Fletcher Spears III, Superintendent
Clio Area School