



COLOMA

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

INSPIRE TO ACHIEVE - EMPOWER FOR SUCCESS

302 W. St. Joseph Street
Coloma, Michigan 49038
ccs.coloma.org

David A. Ehlers, Superintendent
Phone: (269) 468-2424
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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Last night, Governor Whitmer announced that in order to slow the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Michigan, she is ordering the closure of all K-12 school buildings, public, private, and boarding, to students starting Monday, March 16 until Sunday, April 5. The State closing coincides with our Spring Break, so students will not return to Coloma Community Schools until Monday, April 13, 2020.

What this means for Coloma Families:

Over the past weeks, area superintendents have worked hard to develop plans in the event that a closure of schools would be determined to be the best measure to slow the spread of COVID-19. It goes without saying that we had hoped that we never had to initiate school closures due to communicable illness.

Part of our plan has been to provide educational support to our students while away from school. Our staff has been planning for this and will be working today to put packets of learning materials in the hand of K - 5 students to take home over this closure. Our secondary students (6-12) will have e-learning materials available to them via Google Classroom and their district-issued Chromebook as well as access to teachers via Google Chat and email during normal hours over the break. In addition, we will have students take home instructional materials, such as textbooks, notebooks, and supplemental material. For students who are absent or unable to gather materials to take home, we will post on the District's website and social media a time when these items can be picked up.

In addition to the materials and work our staff will provide for our students, we ask that you encourage your student(s) to remain engaged in schoolwork, read, and practice during the closure. This closure results in 4-weeks of no school so it is imperative that students keep their brain active and challenged on a daily basis. Online courses remain active and students should continue working.

IMPORTANT MEDICATION INFORMATION: If your student will need medications currently on file at school or medical equipment used in the school setting during the closure, please contact the office of your student's building so that arrangements can be made for pick up. Certain medications such as controlled substances must be picked up by a parent. Medications and equipment not needed during the closure can remain at school.

Sports/Extracurriculars

- All extracurricular activities and sporting events, including rehearsals and practices, are immediately postponed until school is reopened.



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- All activities/performances scheduled in the auditorium are canceled.
- No students or non-essential staff will be allowed on campus until school is reopened.
- Re-scheduling of events will be determined on a case by case basis.

Field Trips

- All field trips are canceled through Spring Break.
- Decisions about field trips taking place after Spring Break will be made in conjunction with the Berrien County Health Department.
- A determination on rescheduling will be made on a case by case basis.

Community Use of School Facilities:

- All school facilities, including sports fields, will remain closed to the public during the school closure. Community access to facilities will resume when schools reopen.
- All facility rentals are canceled or postponed until schools reopen.

Food Service

- Plans are being made to provide food to our students. Details of those plans will be posted on our website next week and communicated to you via SchoolMessenger emails.

I would like to thank everyone in advance for staying out of the facilities during the closure as our staff will be working over the break to perform a deep cleaning and disinfect all contact surfaces so that our students return to a safe, clean environment!

We thank you for your cooperation during these unprecedented times. During the mandated closure, the District will send regular updates to provide ongoing information to our families and staff. Updates will also be posted on the District website where we will be creating a special page under *Families & Community* titled "School Closure 2020" and social media.

Thank you,

Dave Ehlers
Superintendent