



Holton Public Schools

“Rooted in Community, Reaching for Excellence, Ready for the Future”

Elementary Office – (231) 821-1825 • Middle School Office – (231) 821-1775
High School Office – (231) 821-1725 • Athletic Office – (231) 821-1930

March 24, 2020 - 3:00PM

Dear Holton Families:

I hope you continue to be well during this continually evolving situation. Yesterday, Governor Whitmer issued an order that everyone in Michigan is to “shelter in place.” I want you to know how this order impacts district operations.

Impact on Food Service

There is no impact on our Food Service plans. We will continue to deliver weekly meals as this is considered an essential service. Our next meal service will be delivered today. If you have already signed up, you do not need to sign up again. The meals will be delivered every Tuesday to your door during this closure. These meals will be delivered starting at noon. If you have not signed up yet, complete the sign up form <https://forms.gle/Z2yREixEReT5haHF7>. If you aren't able to sign up with the form, contact the District Services Building at (231) 821-1700, leave a voicemail, and Brandee Tanner will return your call to help you sign up. This service is provided for ALL of our families regardless of need. I encourage all of our families to take advantage of this program! **Meals will be provided the week of spring break (deliveries will be on April 7)!**

Impact on Hand2Hand Program

There is no impact on the Hand2Hand program. For those of you receiving meals from the Hand2Hand program, these meals will also be delivered on Tuesdays. If you are interested in the Hand2Hand program email Amy Stoll at amystoll91@gmail.com. If you are concerned about access to food during this closure, contact the Holton Community Center at (231) 821-0000.

Impact on Academics

We continue to wait for more specific guidance from the Michigan Department of Education regarding distance learning. In the meantime, our teaching staff have been working to build Instructional Resources for Families by creating this website: <https://sites.google.com/holton.k12.mi.us/hps-instructionalresources/home>. Our plan is to keep this webpage updated with resources for students and families to access for the duration of this closure. Once we learn more from the state regarding instruction, we will communicate with you.

Impact on Calendar

The state legislature is scheduled to be in two weeks. The impact this closure has on our school calendar is up to our state legislature and Governor. The calendar will be inherently linked to how districts are able to “count” instructional time during this closure. With the ambiguity around this issue, the legislature may delay making any decisions on this. As soon as I get more clarity, I will be sure to share the information with the community.



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For now, we will plan to return to school on April 14 which is the day after the “shelter in place” order expires. We do not know when the end of the school year will be at this point.

Resources

There are many resources to help you during this “Stay Home, Stay Safe, Stay Alive” order. This includes the Muskegon Area District Libraries. Our area libraries created online resources to help keep kids connected with reading and learning opportunities. Visit www.madl.org to access all of the resources there. Also, our partnership with Hackley Community Care is allowing students to access mental health support virtually. If you would like to schedule an appointment with our Hackley Community Care counselor, Jennie Aylor, please call: (231) 733-6830.

How To Help?

I am often asked how to help during this time. I will offer three ways, although there are many more you can find at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/managing-stress-anxiety.html>.

1. **Follow the shelter in place order.** The more of us that adhere to the requirements of the Governor’s order, the sooner we can return to normal. Adherence also helps to keep our healthcare workers with the capability to respond to those who are sick. I know this isn’t easy but each of us can make a difference simply by staying home.
2. **Check in on each other.** I encourage you to connect with others during this time. Our personal connections with each other are a critical part of our wellness. Set up virtual get togethers with friends, make phone calls, and send messages. This is important for our kids, too.
3. **Make a donation to our Hand2Hand program.** Hand2Hand provides weekend meal kits to students at Holton. We have increased to providing nearly 300 meal kits to our community and this has impacted the inventory in our food pantry. If you would like to donate food items please drop them off at the Holton Community Center on Tuesdays 10AM-4PM, Thursdays 10AM-6PM, or Saturdays 10AM-2PM. Financial donations can also be made to Hand2Hand through donations to the Holton Community Center just indicate to Holton Community Center staff that this donation is for Hand2Hand.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Dr. Adam Bayne
Superintendent