



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

April 3, 2020 - 12:00PM

Dear Holton Families:

Yesterday, Governor Whitmer issued an order that suspends all in person instruction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Although this was expected, we know this creates stress, grief, and uncertainty for all of us. I want you to know that Holton Public Schools is ready to support our students and community through this unprecedented time. We are all sad for the memories and experiences that will be lost due to the pandemic we are facing. However, we are already working to find ways to make the end of this school year as positive as possible for our students. I want to share our preliminary planning with the recent Executive Order from Governor Whitmer.

Distance Learning Plan

Staff are already providing instructional resources to families. These resources can be found at <https://sites.google.com/holton.k12.mi.us/hps-instructionalresources/home>. Our primary focus during this crisis will be maintaining positive relationships and supporting the mental, social, and emotional well being with students and families. Our updated distance learning plan will provide learning support and strive to keep our students on track for when we return to school. For our special education students, we will work to meet the needs of each individual student. We know replicating the value of face to face learning is not possible. However, we are confident our plan will support student learning and prepare each of our students for next year. When we return, teachers will be assessing student learning and provide appropriate support to help address any learning gaps. Our plan will need to address the requirements for graduation and how to advance students to the next grade level. The specifics for these requirements still need to be determined. The plan we develop will focus on the best interest of our students. These are incredibly difficult times and we recognize the stress students and families are experiencing.

Technology Resources

We are engaged in assessing the technology resources of each of our students. In preparation to help meet the technological needs of our students, additional Chromebooks have been ordered for students to check out if there is no other device in the home. The process for check out will be shared in the next couple weeks. We are also working on a plan to help address any internet connectivity issues by expanding WiFi at our buildings and looking at “hot spots” to help families without internet. More information will be coming regarding this.

Food Service

Holton Public Schools is committed to continuing our food service plan. Each Tuesday for the duration of the building closure, we will deliver seven days worth of breakfast and lunches for every student in the district. If



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you have not signed up for this program and would like to please fill out this form:

<https://forms.gle/Z2yREixEReT5haHF7> or call Brandee Tanner at (231) 821-1700.

Students

To each Holton student, I know this isn't how any of us wanted the year to end. It is okay to be sad. I'm sad. Your teachers are sad. We had exciting experiences and memories to be made that make spring one of my favorite times of the year. I want you to know that we are working to figure out other ways to have fun during this time or make some of these experiences happen when we come back to school. As we grieve what we lost, please know that we can still make fun memories right now. School is not closed! We are having school in a very different way.

Class of 2020

To our Seniors, like so many others, you have been heavy on my heart. Senior year is filled with lasts and celebrations. I know there are many questions and we are working hard to get them answered. I want you to know there are many conversations already happening to give the Class of 2020 the celebration you deserve. I am committed to having a commencement ceremony for you. This experience is a part of your story now. I am incredibly proud of each of you and we will celebrate your accomplishments! Take a deep breath. We will get through this.

Spring Break

Today was originally scheduled to be our first day of spring break. I know many of you had trips planned and were forced to change those plans. Although we may not be able to enjoy the tropics, we are encouraging everyone to take the next week to get some rest and relaxation. We have set up a Spring Break Spirit Week and are asking you to post your photos participating in our dress days. Let's have some fun next week together! You will hear from us more detail on our distance learning plan the week of April 13.

I know there remains many more questions that need to be answered. From access to the buildings for personal belongings to refunds for field trips. Please know we are working through these details and will communicate the plan soon. As always, feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Stay healthy and well!

Respectfully,

Dr. Adam Bayne
Superintendent