



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

May 15, 2020 - 12:00PM

Dear Holton Families:

I hope this message finds everyone doing well! The return of green leaves, birds, and flowers is proof that spring is here and warmer weather is on the way! I have several important updates to share with you.

Graduation

We have set a tentative date for our commencement ceremony! Although the format of the ceremony may need to be modified, we are planning **Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 7PM** in Red Devil Stadium to celebrate the Class of 2020. We are still working on several details including efforts to maintain social distancing, personal protection equipment, and limiting crowd size. Restrictions on congregate events and recommendations from public health officials will dictate what needs to happen. However, we are excited and hopeful for a wonderful evening recognizing the accomplishments of the Class of 2020!

Student Engagement

We are having great success connecting with our students! Thank you for your continued communication at this time! Please encourage all of our students to maintain engagement throughout the rest of the school year. If you need help with connecting with your child's teachers, please contact the building offices. The last day of school for students is June 10, 2020. We are currently working on plans for summer school. We are considering several models including a face to face program, a hybrid virtual, and a fully virtual program. The model we implement will be dependent upon what is recommended by public health officials. As always, we are committed to maintaining a safe learning space for all of our students and staff. More information about summer school will be coming soon.

Food Service

We continue to deliver breakfast, lunch, snack and dinner to our students during this school closure. Our last snack and dinner delivery will be June 2nd. However, I'm pleased to report that we have recently been approved to continue to provide breakfast and lunch throughout the summer. We are still working on how the summer meal program will operate. For now, we will continue to deliver meals through the remainder of the school year. As temperatures warm, everyone is encouraged to leave a cooler on or near your front door for us to place food and milk into. We will be sure to keep you informed should anything change regarding our food service program.



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Bond Projects

Last week, our bond projects were able to start up again! We are working on some updated timelines to ensure all of the bond work is completed prior to the start of the school year. Our projects include a Fitness Center, HS/MS restroom renovations, HS/MS Stage/Cafeteria update, and HS/MS roof replacement. Virtual Hard Hat Tours will be shared in the next few weeks to share the transformations of these spaces. These projects will restrict access to our facilities. Please remember that all of our buildings are closed at this time.

Exploring the West Michigan Conference

The West Michigan Conference (WMC) invited Holton, among several other districts, to apply. The Holton Board of Education approved to send a letter of interest to investigate if this change is in the best interest of our students and community. Holton Public Schools is currently a part of the Central State Activities Conference (CSAA) Silver. The CSAA Silver includes: Holton, Hesperia, White Cloud, Kent City, Morley Stanwood, and Lakeview. The CSAA Gold includes: Big Rapids, Fremont, Newaygo, Central Montcalm, Tri County, Grant, Reed City, and Chippewa Hills. These two divisions offer multiple sports, performance arts, and academic activities for students. The WMC is looking to expand with the intent to create two divisions, large schools and small schools. The small division would include: Ravenna, North Muskegon, Mason County Central, Hart, and Shelby. The large school division would include: Oakridge, Whitehall, and Montague. Districts that submitted letters of interest to WMC include Holton, Fremont, Hesperia, Ludington, Manistee, Manistee Catholic Central, Muskegon Catholic Central, Orchard View and Western Michigan Christian. The CSAA offers a variety of activities including Talent Revue, Honors Band, Quiz Bowl, Language Arts, and Forensics. WMC does not offer any conference activities. However, WMC is interested in adding these activities to the conference. The Holton Board of Education is seeking feedback from all stakeholders including coaches, advisors, students, parents and community members. Complete this survey to share your thoughts: <https://forms.gle/QoqK53NmFyA6Mtrp8>. The survey will close May 29, 2020. Based on the feedback we receive, the Board will determine if an application to the West Michigan Conference is in the best interest of our students and community. Applications to the WMC are due June 26, 2020. Switching conferences will take two years.

Additional Fencing

Our contractors have been adding additional fencing to help maintain the safety and security of our campus. The fencing will help protect our grounds including underground sprinkling systems. The additional fencing will deter vehicles from accessing pedestrian walkways, grassy areas near the middle and high school, and help ensure parking near the building is limited to authorized personnel only. We are thankful for the opportunity to keep campus as safe as possible for our students and staff. Photos of the area additional fencing is being installed:



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Technology

We continue to connect devices with students who may need one. If you are still in need of a device complete this form <https://forms.gle/GNLVwZh4ir1tVkvY7> and we will work to connect you with a device. Soon we will be communicating the process to return school items including Chromebooks, iPads, textbooks, and other materials. This will be done in consultation with public health officials to ensure everyone is safe in this process. There will be specific steps to ensure we track the return of these materials accurately and we will need your help to keep this from being a confusing process.

Kindergarten Round Up

Calling all Kindergartners! We are so excited to welcome our newest Red Devils to school! We wish we could host our typical Kindergarten Round Up. Although we are not able to meet face to face, we still want to get enrollment information out to our families to be able to enroll their child in Kindergarten and prepare for the transition to school. Enrollment Packets can be obtained in the following ways:

- Pick up at Holton Elementary on Tuesday or Thursdays from 10:00AM - 2:00 PM - Use the bus drop off lane, pull your car up near the front entrance and honk your horn, one of the secretaries will come out to your car and hand you a packet.
- Email Robin Taylor (elementary secretary) at rtaylor@holton.k12.mi.us or call her at 231-821-1826 to request an enrollment packet be sent to your house. If emailing, please include the address you want the packet mailed to.
- Pick up at the Holton District Services Building anytime. There will be packets in the reading book exchange box that is located near the main entrance to the building.

Packets can be returned to the school by:

- Dropping them off at the elementary on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (using the same method as pick up - pulling the car up and honking the horn).
- Mailing them back to Robin Taylor at the school address 6245 Syers Road, Holton, MI 49425



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- Or making other arrangements by emailing Robin Taylor at rtaylor@holton.k12.mi.us or calling 231-821-1826

We can't wait to meet our new Kindergartners!

Budget

I know all of us recognize the significant impact the COVID-19 crisis has had on our economy. As we learn more about the economic impact will have on school funding, we know budget reductions may be necessary. It is still too early to know what the state will do to offset the lost revenue due to the statewide closure. The district is working on several different budget scenarios to ensure Holton Public Schools can continue to provide outstanding education to our students. I encourage all of you to reach out to your elected officials and encourage them to find a solution that protects school funding. A strong economy is reliant upon high quality schools for our kids. Holton Public Schools is committed to being fiscally responsible and will make the best possible decisions to ensure each of our students is cared for.

Reopening Fall 2020

There are many questions regarding how schools will reopen in the fall. While I am hopeful that we can return to school in the fall normally, we really don't know what the conditions will be. The district is currently working on a variety of plans including how to maintain social distancing, personal protection equipment needs, and increasing the disinfecting of common areas. We are also working on plans that provide for flexible learning opportunities that help us keep everyone safe and engaged in learning. We know that there are many opinions regarding if schools will be safe in the fall. We are working to accommodate all of our families by increasing our virtual offerings, purchasing new technology to increase access, and considering alternative schedules to accommodate for any future outbreak or long term closure. We do not know all the answers and more formal plans will not be communicated until the summer when we have more information about how schools will be required to reopen. Holton Public Schools will reopen with our commitment to student and staff safety as the top priority!

Stay healthy and well!

Respectfully,

Dr. Adam Bayne
Superintendent