COOPERSVILLE
Area Public Schools
One Community, One Campus . . . Endless Opportunity.

March 27, 2020

Dear CAPS' Community:

Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to navigate the ever-changing public health issue, Coronavirus, which we are facing throughout the world. We each have our own challenges we are facing, but are all in this situation together. I realize many of you have lost your job and are facing many economic uncertainties. Our focus is to take one day at a time and work to make the best of our circumstances knowing our actions can help change the outcome of this situation. I want to provide information and personal thoughts as part of this update.

Stay at Home, Stay Safe Executive Order

Tuesday morning, Governor Whitmer's "Shelter in Place" Executive Order went into effect through April 13, 2020, at 11:59 pm. schools will remain closed through this date. The details of this order are found on the State of Michigan website, https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus.

Meal Distribution

The distribution of meals is considered a "critical infrastructure" support service and will continue as planned with attached information. These meals are available for any child. You do not need to qualify for Reduced/Free Lunch Program and you do not need to be a CAPS' student.

Testing

M-Step testing will not occur this year. AP Advanced Placement Testing will occur and students will be contacted through our High School with information. Curriculum covered will be just what was expected to be taught through early March. Our staff has been working with resources for students and there will be national online teaching and review available as well through the College Board.

Extended Optional Resource Learning Materials

Our top priority at this time is health, safety, and human services. We know many of our staff have reached out to our students. We will continue to post on our website to learn from home options and resources as we move forward. We have been told further direction is coming from the Governor's Office who is working with the Michigan Department of Education and the Legislature. We have been working on various scenarios in this unique situation.

Remote Learning

We are looking at options to provide some more structured level of remote learning depending on where things move over the next few weeks. We do expect the Governor to give comprehensive direction within a week as she has been working with legislative leaders and preparing to meet the legal aspects of a variety of issues prior to issuing guidance. The message could be to provide a good faith effort at doing the best we can with the limitations we have in

place. Based on the direction she provides; we will move forward. As the virus spread increases, things may change. We will adapt.

Other Work

We are engaged in a variety of other work in managing the information as part of this process.

- We have established Food Service sites and continue to work to solidify supply chains and people to provide services.
- We electronically meet daily with the head of the Ottawa County Health Department, County Superintendents, are in regular contact with State Legislators, as well as connectors with Federal Officials.
- We are meeting with various administrators electronically several times per week.
- We have moved into the shelter in place, but remain working in issuing direction as part of the Executive Orders from the Governor and maintaining critical infrastructure.

Other Thoughts

When I was in elementary school, we were given a grade on our report card for "following directions." In our world, we are fiercely independent with more money, freedom, and resources anywhere in the world. Regardless of where everyone is at politically, our President and Governor have made very clear the future of our area of the world is in our hands. We can slow the wave of the spread of the Coronavirus so that our health care professionals have the capacity to treat those who need critical support if we simply "follow directions." I ask all of you to "follow directions" at this critical time in the spread of this virus.

We like our freedom and independence. Our actions or inactions will determine our future. I always believe in uncertain times; we focus on what we have control and, in this situation, **we hold a lot of control.**

- We can control whether we follow the Center for Disease Control guidelines and the Governor's Executive Order, and in many ways control the impact on our healthcare system and their ability to have the capacity to take care of those critically ill.
- We can control how we take care of each other in our household and how we help those in our neighborhood who are most at-risk for serious complications of the virus.
- We can control our choices to change our routines and what we like to do for a period of time.
- We can control our attitude. We choose each day that even at times of great fear and anxiety, we can be positive and see all the good that is in the world and the positive in every situation. There is a lot of good, even in difficult times. Every day we can choose to be positive and work to build others up or choose to see the negative and tear people down.
- We can control the example we are in times of difficulty. Our children will not forever be harmed by not "keeping up" academically during this period of time as part of their thirteen-year experience in K-12 education. In the end, they probably won't remember the academics that they learned or didn't learn during this period. Their experiences in how they feel and how safe they feel during this time will be what may have a long-term impact and what they hold on to.

- We can control how much media we watch and allow our children to watch involving the Coronavirus. It is on 24/7, it is good to be informed, but it is not good for anyone's mental health to absorb all that is available.
- We can choose during this time to reprioritize all that we have during this time and be inconvenienced for this brief period of time, with hopefully long-term benefits.

Mental Health

As we continue to organize academic opportunities for our students, we cannot ignore the stress, grief, and anxiety felt during this time of uncertainty. Sharing social/emotional learning and mental health resources with our families is a priority. We intend to share these additional opportunities and resources in the weeks to follow. For this week, consider the following tips aligned with our District **be nice.** initiative:

be active:

- How can you be physically active each day? Get outside! Consider participating in the community Bear Hunt!

be aware:

- Challenge yourself to watching shows or viewing social media responses that promote positive thinking and provide information that helps you feel less stressed or anxious.

be nice:

- Consider daily family check-ins: How are you feeling? What are you grateful for? What are you hoping to learn, or what did I learn today?

If you or someone you know are in need of support, please contact United Way's 2-1-1. They are available 24/7 to support your needs.

Other Information

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and patience during this extended school closure. We are very fortunate to live in a community which supports each other and pulls together in challenging times. Thank you, parents, for doing the best you can in balancing all the needs and stress which this situation has created.

We are extremely appreciative of our administrative and teaching staff who have helped reach out in many ways to support our students during this time. We are especially appreciative of our Food Service Team who have worked nonstop to provide meals for our community as well as the work of our other support staff who continue to help support the needs of our community and neighbors. By our decisions over the next couple of weeks, we can help write the end of this movie.

Be careful, stay safe, and stay strong. Be positive!

Sincerely,

Ron Veldman
Superintendent

RV/la

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AND COMMUNICATE TO ALL

CAPS MEAL SITES DURING COVID-19 CLOSING
Tuesdays and Fridays – Multiple meals provided each day

Coopersville Area District Library (Parking Lot) 10:00 – 10:45 am
333 Ottawa Street, Coopersville

Coopersville Timberline Estates (Clubhouse) 11:00 – 11:45 am
260 Pin Oak Drive, Coopersville

Trinity Lutheran School (Monday/Wednesday) 11:00 – 11:30 am
1379 Harding Street, Conklin

Tallmadge Meadows (Clubhouse) 12:15 – 1:00 pm
0-11630 14th Avenue NW, Grand Rapids MI 49534

Other Community Resources

- As this situation has created numerous challenges for many people, I also remind you of the 2-1-1 call center through the Greater Ottawa County United Way.
- Dialing 2-1-1 will connect you to health, human, and community services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Food Truck on 03/31/2020 at 10 AM @
Coopersville Cares
180 68th Avenue
Coopersville, MI 49404

Food Truck on 03/27/2020 at 5 PM (moved off-campus)
Drive Through Mobile Pantry @
Coopersville Reformed Church
423 W Randall Street
Coopersville, MI 49404

Coopersville Cares Food and Clothing Pantries will be closed for shopping for the time being, but the pantry will be offering Food Box pickup during the normal open hours. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am – 12 pm and Tuesdays 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm. There will be no one time per month limit during this time. Proof of income is not required.

Unemployment Benefits, State has new site with updated changes:
https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_98179---,00.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery