



March 24

What happened at the first totally virtual Board of Education meeting?

The first virtual Board meeting went well and you can view it [online](#) or on Channel 20 running at 10am and 7 pm this week. All of the [agenda](#) action items passed including the minutes from the meeting March 9, the human resources report, and the projects for this summer at Monteith, Parcels and South. Also approved were the IT Backup System, the Monteith first floor lockers, the resolution for designation of a school safety liaison, and Bylaw 0181.1 modification or suspension of bylaws during States of Emergency (allowing us to hold a totally virtual meeting). Approved on first read were a bid for public announcement and clock systems, and a bid for bond computer devices. The devices allow us to move away from computer labs and replace desktop computers; they also meet state testing requirements when that resumes (more on that below). Under Info and Discussion, the board discussed a Turner Construction fees and cost recommendation, as well as a TEC Environmental Consultant recommendation. The monthly check register and financials were presented as usual. Public comments were submitted via a google form and read aloud. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 13 and is also scheduled to be virtual as it falls within the timeframe of the Governor's order to Stay Safe, Stay Home.

Spring Break April 6-10

GPPSS will be keeping its regularly scheduled spring break as the week of April 6-10. This means teachers and students will not be working. There will be no new assignments or due dates within that window. Although if your family is like ours it will also be a great opportunity to catch up. Thank you to all our students, staff and parents who are doing an amazing job keeping learning alive and well in GPPSS.

Young Fives (March 31) and Kindergarten (May 1) deadlines approaching

GPPSS has revised its [enrollment process](#) to delay residency verification, but the deadlines for the online pre-enrollment still stand. To be in the April 1 lottery for **Young Fives you must pre-enroll by March 31.** And **Kindergarten** families must pre-enroll online by **May 1** to ensure placement in their 2020 neighborhood school.

What is the Testing Update - through U.S. Department of Ed to our Michigan legislature

State Board of Education President Dr. Casandra Ulbrich and State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice sent a letter to the U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos on March 17, to urge the secretary to grant a nationwide waiver of statewide student assessments in favor of focusing on the more immediate needs of children. The U.S. Department of Education responded last Friday by offering every state the opportunity to submit expedited waiver requests for a number of federal testing and accountability requirements. MDE submitted its formal waiver request late Friday afternoon.

“We are pleased that the U.S. Department of Education heard our call to waive the federal requirement for statewide student testing,” Dr. Rice said. “We now need the Michigan legislature to amend state law that requires statewide testing and accountability.” Michigan’s legislature is scheduled to meet Wednesday, 3/25.

The College Board also announced that **Advanced Placement tests**, scheduled to be administered in May, will be offered to students online for the 2019–20 exam administration due to the COVID-19 outbreak. For more information on free online learning sources and home testing updates, the College Board provides updates here:

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/news-changes/coronavirus-update>

What is the best way to care for tech devices during COVID?

- **Step 1: Power off the Device.** You will be applying liquid solutions to your Chromebook, so powering it off is a must.
- **Step 2: Remove any accessories or plug-ins such as cases, USBs, and headphones.** These should be wiped down as well (especially headphones).
- **Step 3: Clean the screen with an LCD-safe solution applied to a microfiber cloth. Strong alcohols can eat away the coating on LCD screens.** *Note a damp **microfiber cloth** does well with cleaning screens.
- **Step 4: Clean the Keyboard and other non-screen parts.** Clorox wipes (mild bleach wipes) can be used on the keyboard and all the other non-screen parts. The wipe should be “squeezed” so that it does NOT over-saturate the keyboard (make sure to let the keyboards dry before you close the lids).

- *Never spray anything on a computer. Remember to “wring out” any saturated wipes prior to using on a Chromebook.
- **Although microfiber is not technically a disinfectant, it is effective in removing germs and bacteria. However, it does need to be washed regularly.

Having a tech issue? Email parentconnect@gpschools.org or call 313-432-3131 (please leave a voicemail) and our help desk team will respond as soon as possible.

What can we do to promote physical health at home?

Our physical education teachers developed this [Online PE packet to “Sharpen the Saw”](#) with activities families can do at home. *Sharpen the Saw* is one of the *Seven Habits* from the *Leader in Me* character education program adopted by all of our elementary schools with the generous support of the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education. Thank you www.gpfpe.org! There is a daily calendar and a weekly activity log. Please adjust as we learn more about social distancing.

How can we share what we’re doing at home?

Our teachers and support staff miss your smiling face. Be sure to post photos with the hashtag #OneGP or tag us on Facebook @GPPSS and Twitter @GPSchools. Tell us what your student is enjoying. Share organizational strategies working for your family. But more than anything, help us to connect remotely.