



March 12, 2020 3:30 PM

Dear GPPSS Families,

Earlier today we shared with you that on **Friday, March 13, GPPSS will be closed to students** so staff can participate in a day of professional development on remote learning appropriate for each age group. Our planning day is to work with our talented staff to utilize e-learning and remote packages to bridge the gap until we can return to classroom instruction. This is a short-term plan. We continue to plan to reopen schools for students on Monday, March 16th at our regularly scheduled time.

As we return to school on Monday we intend to focus on our core functions of keeping students safe and providing instruction. To that end, we will be limiting some student and adult functions. By limiting outside access to our buildings for non-mandatory activities we can help mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19. Please watch your email and the district [website](#) as guidance from the CDC and Health Department continues to develop.

When school reopens on Monday, the following measures will be implemented through Friday, March 20:

- **Academic Competitions** - Outside academic competitions will also continue under the guidance of the organizations hosting these events (such as FIRST Robotics, DECA, or Model UN). We will continue to closely communicate with these governing bodies and share updated information as it becomes available.
- **Special Education** - All student programs and services will continue when school is in session.
- **Athletics - High school** athletic competitions will continue as scheduled under the guidance of Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). We will look to the [MHSAA](#) for ongoing guidance and connect with families if this guidance changes. Practices will continue unless MHSAA advises otherwise.
- **Athletics - Middle school** athletics will be suspended until further notice.
- **Fine and Performing Arts** - Per the CDC, crowds of 100 or more are to be avoided. As such, all activities that would bring in audiences of adults will be suspended and rescheduled as possible. Practices and rehearsals with students and staff will continue. Please note: State Solo and Ensemble has been cancelled for this weekend.
- **Field Trips** - All field trips are cancelled through Friday, March 20.
- **Non-School Use of Buildings** - All building use functions of GPPSS facilities by outside groups will be cancelled through Friday, March 20.
- **Professional Development Outside GPPSS** - All PD when school is in session will be cancelled through Friday, March 20.
- **Food Service** - Chartwells, our food services provider, assured us during our crisis team meeting that they are increasing their efforts around food safety. Despite the conflict with their sustainability efforts, they are purchasing and putting into place more single-use containers to hold and serve food such as the salad bar items. Hand sanitizing stations are

being placed adjacent to every buffet line and we are exploring ways in which we can support a cashless system. Chartwells consistently watches employees for any signs of illness and hygiene practices are carefully monitored.

- **PTO and Board Meetings** - All community meetings and gatherings scheduled to take place within our school facilities between now and Friday, March 20, are cancelled. This includes scheduled PTO events or meetings and book fairs. **Elementary conferences will not be held.** Contact your principal with questions.
- **Common Elementary Questions** - Elementary report cards will be distributed Monday. Classroom parties for the students will be permitted but outside food and attendance by adults will be restricted. **Elementary schools are closed Friday 3/12.** The only exception is that tuition-based preschool programs housed within the elementary schools are open; preschool families will receive additional information from the preschool office.

Resources

- **What if I suspect COVID-19** - Call your healthcare professional for direction regarding testing and quarantine protocol. The focus of GPPSS is on maintaining education in line with our vision - where *everyone* learns, *every* day.
- **Attendance** - Our first concern is student safety. If your child is sick, please keep your child home. If your student is healthy, but your family has a health concern for another family member in the home, please work with your building principal to develop a plan to continue your child's education.
- **Technology Devices** - If schools close for an extended period, and your family does not have access to a device, please contact your building principal to schedule an appointment to sign a device contract and check one out. Supplies are limited and only one device per family will be available.
- **Cleaning** - Our buildings and grounds staff assignments are being adjusted to address critical areas (touchpoints, technology, etc.). GPPSS employees are analyzing supplies and materials as part of this process. We regularly monitor attendance of students and staff to deploy staff and materials as needed.
- **Administrative Functions** - Central Office services, including enrollment and residency verification, will continue with our regular business hours.
- **Mental Health** - Here is an excellent article developed by mental health professionals on [how to discuss COVID-19](#) with your child.

We will continue to communicate with you regarding this developing situation. Please regularly check the portion of our [website](#) that provides useful information on our community's response to COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Gary C. Niehaus

Superintendent