



March 13 at 3 p.m. GPPSS Email Update

With the Governor's direction to close all K-12 schools in Michigan from March 16-April 6, these are answers to the frequently asked questions we are receiving. Yesterday's answers have changed. This document will be [posted on our website](#) and updated regularly with the latest information. Thank you for your patience as this situation continues to develop.

PROGRAM AND SERVICES

What about spring break?

GPPSS is waiting for direction from Wayne County Educational Service Agency as all WRESA districts typically follow the same spring break schedule. We know schools will be closed through April 6 at least. Our WRESA spring break was scheduled for April 6-13. We will let you know as soon as a decision is reached by the county.

Will food be available to students?

Yes, starting next week. During the times of emergency school closure (March 13-April 6th) Grosse Pointe Public School System will be offering lunch and breakfast to students. These meals are available for free to anyone under 18, or under age 26 if they receive special education services. We are grateful for Chartwells and the State working collaboratively with us to do our best to ensure no child goes hungry when school is not in session. In order to keep this as safe as possible for everyone, these meals will be served as "grab and goes" to be taken home for consumption. **Defer Elementary School Gym** and **Poupard Elementary Lobby** will be the two locations where these meals will be offered, Monday-Friday. Breakfast will be served from **8-10 a.m.** Lunch will be served from **11 a.m.-1 p.m.**

What about preschool and Kids Club?

All GPPSS buildings are closed as are all programs housed within our buildings. There will be no Preschool or Kids Club until April 6.

What about athletics?

All games and practices are cancelled as of today through April 6. No adult led practices will be held through April 6. We continue to follow the [guidance of MHSAA](#). All post-season tournaments have been postponed by MHSAA.

What about student activities?

All student activities including field trips, rehearsals, concerts and plays are cancelled through April 6. GPPSS is closely watching cancellation deadlines for events after April 6 and contacting travel agencies regarding options and refunds. The district is gathering information on all activities scheduled *after April 6th* and will proceed according to guidance provided from the Health Department and the Governor.

Will there be a board meeting March 23?

The plan is to hold the school board meeting at 7 p.m., Monday, March 23, as posted. The governor has set no restrictions yet for gatherings under 250 people. Our meetings are televised on cable channel 20 and [livestreamed](#) for those who wish to watch without being physically present. You can always contact all board members through mail to 389 St. Clair, Grosse Pointe 48230 or their email schoolboard@gpschools.org.

What mental health resources are available to help families deal with stress or anxiety as we navigate COVID-19?

The GPPSS psychologists and school social workers put together some [links that may be helpful to families during the time off from school](#). Here is an excellent article developed by mental health professionals on [how to discuss COVID-19](#) with your child.

GRADING/CURRICULAR QUESTIONS**When will elementary report cards go home?**

Elementary report cards will be mailed home the week of March 16.

Will elementary conferences be held?

Elementary conferences, like middle school, have been cancelled. Please use the information provided by teachers at back to school night on the best way to reach them should you have questions or concerns about your student's progress.

Will all students be expected to do online learning?

We appreciate your patience as we seek to develop and share multiple opportunities for students to continue their learning. We are doing our best given the difficult circumstances. A variety of means including packets you can download and print, online resources, and more are being thoughtfully considered. Each student is unique. Thank you for working with us proactively with a growth mindset.

What testing will take place?

The SAT and ACT tests scheduled to be in our buildings have been cancelled per the Governor's closing of school buildings. We are waiting for guidance from the state regarding local and state testing when we return. At this time, our focus is on maintaining student learning.

What about third quarter grades for secondary students?

We are working to provide information on the logistics. The goal of any grading system is to provide meaningful feedback and a way to monitor progress.

TECHNOLOGY

What technology devices do students need?

Any device that has the ability to connect to the Internet will be sufficient to access the educational materials being developed. A keyboard is always helpful.

What if we do not have a device at home?

GPPSS has a limited number of devices available for families in need. There is an [acceptable use contract](#) that covers damage, theft or loss, that the student and parent/guardian will sign. GPPSS **must have the [signed contract](#)** to release a device. Because of limited supply only one device per family is being distributed. The device will be returned fully charged when school reopens as those are needed for Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) and State testing. All buildings will be open **Monday, March 16, from 8 a.m.-12 noon** for students to hand in the contract and pick up a device.

What if we do not have Internet?

As the country deals with the effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Comcast is taking immediate steps to help connect more low-income families to the Internet at home. Effective Monday, March 16, 2020, any eligible party who signs up for [Internet Essentials](#) will receive two free months of Internet service. Regular rates apply after that but families can cancel at any time.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

When can I pick up books and belongings?

All buildings will be open **Monday, March 16, from 8 a.m.-12 noon** for students to pick up belongings. We are working to schedule these pick-ups at various times (Friday was 12-3) so families with different schedules have access.

Are parent volunteers allowed back when school resumes?

Hopefully. We will continue to follow the latest State recommendations for safety.

Will the board office (389 St. Clair) be open so that we can register students for next year and verify residency?

Yes. Central office will be open from 8-4, Monday-Friday. For appointments outside those hours, call 313-432-3083.

Will the construction and abatement plans change?

GPPSS must continue to follow all guidelines regarding bids and board approval. The district is working with our bond and construction companies and will proceed accordingly. This will allow easier access for field measuring and other activities. If construction/abatement plans change a notification will be provided to staff and families as that would change building access.

How are we cleaning our buildings?

Our staff are conducting a deep clean similar to the summer cleaning routine. We are disinfecting every surface, and using the Clorox machines to clean each room and building. Additionally preschool and food service staff are assisting in the disinfection process per guidelines for their areas.

What about use of our buildings by outside groups?

All building use functions of GPPSS facilities by outside groups will be cancelled through April 6.

HEALTH QUESTIONS**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*.