

WESTERN SCHOOL DISTRICT

1400 S. DEARING ROAD • PARMA, MICHIGAN 49269
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March 12, 2020

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Dear Western Families and Community Members:

This letter is intended to provide an update on the coronavirus situation as it affects our district. We continue to rely on the guidance of the Jackson County Health Department (JCHD), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the Office of Governor Gretchen Whitmer in all the decisions that are made at the district level.

Here are some updates regarding how we are responding to the current situation:

- All field trips scheduled through the end of spring break have been canceled, including the high school band trip to New York.
- All assemblies and performances on our campus involving the general public through the end of spring break have been canceled.
- All winter sports competitions have been canceled by the Michigan High School Athletic Association.
- For the foreseeable future, spring sports practices will be held as scheduled.
- Changes to the lunch procedure at all grade levels will be implemented by Monday, March 16, per suggested guidelines from the JCHD.

No decision to close schools has been made at this time. Any potential decision to do so would be made under the advice, counsel and/or direction of the above agencies and not solely at the district level. However, we would encourage you to develop a plan for your family in the event that we are forced to close school for an extended period of time.

Of course, we will continue to monitor events as this situation progresses and make further adjustments if necessary.

The following precautionary measures, as outlined in a previous communication to our families and community members, remain in effect. They include:

- Our contracted custodial staff continues to clean hard surfaces on a more frequent basis.
- We continue to provide additional hours to our existing staff to assist in additional cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.

- Classrooms continue to be provided with disinfectant spray and toweling for staff who wish to spot clean between scheduled cleaning times.
- Hand sanitizer continues to be provided in classrooms and high traffic areas.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of buses continues to be performed on a regular basis.

As a reminder, the advice we are receiving from the experts says the best ways to prevent the spread of coronavirus are the same as preventing the cold and flu. They include:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water.
- Cover your mouth when you sneeze or cough.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick. (Students should be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school after an illness.)

As always, the safety of Western School District students and staff is our priority. We will continue to take measures to keep your children, our staff and those in our school district safe. Thank you for your attention, your support and your patience as we navigate this challenging and constantly evolving situation. We will continue to provide you with additional information as needed.

If you have additional concerns, please contact the Western Administration office at (517) 841-8171.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Smajda".

Michael Smajda
Superintendent