



**CHELSEA**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE

Chelsea School District Families,

March 23, 2020

With the Governor's Stay in Place order today, I am sure you continue to have many questions, as we weather this storm together. You are probably wondering if this closure will be even further extended and if we have plans to help continue to educate your children. You may be worried about your health, a loved one's health, finances, and your job. This uncertainty can make us all feel anxious and weary. I am hoping that I can provide you with information that helps ease this feeling.

### ***Food Distribution***

We continue to coordinate food availability for families in our community who **need** support. We have two additional pick up times for families. Curbside distribution will take place on Friday, March 27, from 10:00-12:00 and Monday, April 6, from 10:00-12:00 at the high school. We have directional signs posted. If you are in **need**, please come to the high school during these times.

Our Meals on Wheels program has continued and our food service staff, senior center staff and volunteers have been integral in providing meals to our seniors. We will continue this effort through the closure.

### ***FIA***

I have had a few questions from community members about donations. If you are interested in donating food or supporting the Faith in Action efforts, you can contact them at (734) 475-3305.

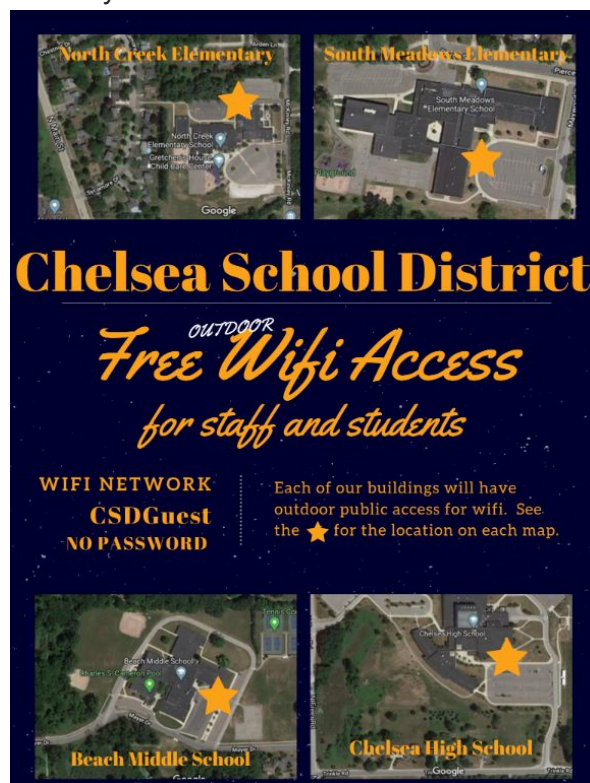
### ***On-line and Virtual Options***

We have received guidance from the Michigan Department of Education and our attorney's office regarding online options and virtual instruction. The main takeaway is that we need to be sure that we are providing equitable access to the opportunities we are providing for **all** students. Further, we must take into consideration the specific learning needs that our population has with respect to accessing learning.

There are many areas of the district that do not have Broadband services. The Washtenaw County Broadband Task Force has helped us identify the areas in our district that have limited

or no access. We ordered several Verizon hotspots to be placed in these remote areas to help with access. We are waiting on this order now.

In the meantime, we are making efforts to address internet access issues locally. Our tech and operations departments have placed wireless access points on the exterior of our school buildings. This will allow users to pull up and access the internet through our network. I have included a map below that will show you where the access points are located at each building. You can pull up in your car at any of these locations to access the Internet.



### ***Learning Plans***

We understand that you may be worried about your child's learning progression at this time and I want to assure you that our staff continue to plan for extended learning opportunities for students. We continue to add resources to our webpage in the [Family Resources](#) tab. We are working with the other school districts in the county to collaborate on a plan that is equitable and accessible for all students. Our target for pushing out additional learning opportunities is April 6. Please know that this takes an amazing effort from our staff and colleagues across the county; all coordinated remotely. In addition, the District has ordered *Verizon Hotspots* with the intent to place these in areas of our community with limited to no Broadband access. We are currently waiting for these to arrive.

### ***iPad Distribution***

Our staff are also working to provide iPad technology to all of our elementary students. We would like to get the iPads in the hands of our students to help push out additional enrichment activities for our students. Tech staff and teachers came in to prep the carts (1,000 iPads!) on

Monday. While the Stay at Home order extends school closures until at least April 13th, educators supporting public and private K-12 schools for the purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing other essential functions, including food services, are considered essential workforce. Under these guidelines, we are able to organize this iPad pick-up process even though the Stay at Home order has been issued. We will alert the Chelsea PD that we are running this pick-up process on Thursday and Friday so they know to expect more people at the school that morning. Of course, this is optional. If you have concerns about picking up technology at this time, we understand. Please know we will be taking all safety precautions seriously as we facilitate this pick up.

Curbside iPad pickup will take place on Thursday, March 26 and Friday, March 27 according to the following schedule. If you have multiple students at the same building, you will be able to pick their iPads up at the same time.

Please note: We will only be distributing technology according to the times and locations listed below.

Thursday, March 26

9:00 - 11:00 - 2nd Grade at North Creek and 5th Grade at South Meadows

1:00 - 3:00 - 1st Grade at North Creek and 4th Grade at South Meadows

Friday, March 27

9:00 - 11:00 - Young 5' and Kindergarten at North Creek and 3rd Grade at South Meadows

1:00 - 3:00 - Anyone who missed the other times

We will have directional signs posted at the buildings as a way to ease traffic. We will all need to exercise patience as we accomplish this task. Thank you for your cooperation. You will be receiving more information from your building principal, and they will be available by phone or email to answer any questions you may have.

### ***Cleaning and Shut Down***

Our custodial and operations staff have cleaned the buildings and prepared them for a longer closure. We will continue to monitor the buildings from an operational standpoint.

With the Governor's recent Executive Order, we will be shutting down our buildings completely. We will continue to provide food to our Meals on Wheels family and to our families in need, but will limit the number of volunteers it takes for this essential task. Other than that, all buildings will be closed until at least April 13.

### ***Contact***

All administrators will be working from home. You will be able to reach out to them via email if you have any questions.

Please know we are all working hard on behalf of our students in Chelsea. We miss seeing them everyday! We have an amazing staff that are pulling together to get through this

unprecedented time. Thank you to our families and the community for your continued support of the school district.

Please continue to visit our website for the most recent updates.

<https://www.chelsea.k12.mi.us/updates>

Sincerely,

Julie D. Helber, Ed.D

Superintendent

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