

Hudsonville Public Schools

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March 24, 2020

Dear Hudsonville Families,

On behalf of our Board of Education and the entire staff, I hope this communication finds you healthy and safe. As we enter week two of our district closure, many of you may be facing new challenges with the State's "[Stay Home, Stay Safe](#)" order to remain at home or in your place of residence to the maximum extent feasible. All of the Hudsonville Public Schools staff care deeply about your children and we miss seeing them every day. We also know many of you are concerned about classwork, progression to the next grade level, questions about High School prom, and graduation (which are still scheduled) among other things. We have complete intentions of making sure our students progress in a manner that will prepare them for next year. Please take some time to review today's letter, as we want to update you on information regarding mental health supports, food service distribution, and how we will be making our best attempts at educating all students in the weeks to come.

As more information is shared each day regarding COVID-19 and its impacts on governmental action, public health, and our daily rhythms of family and work life, we recognize that it also impacts our social-emotional health. [Social distancing](#) is an important practice during this time but does not diminish our need to connect with others and meet our emotional needs. Our hope is to provide an opportunity for any and all students to feel connected to their school community during this time. Both students or parents of students may follow the link below to submit a request to hear from an HPS administrator or staff member. Please visit our [HPS Update Center](#) and click on the "Mental Health Support" link under Important Links.

Our food service department is considered an essential workforce so will continue to offer breakfast and lunch to families in need of support on Mondays and Wednesdays. We know it is a true hardship for many families right now and we welcome anyone to pick up meals. You do not have to leave your car or check in on a list, just drive up, tell us how many children you are feeding and we hand you the meals. We will be offering these services through April 13. Please see our [district website](#) for more information including distribution sites and times.

School leaders in the Ottawa Area are sensitive to the many challenges facing our students, our families, our staff, and our communities during this time of uncertainty. While students are away from school and isolated from normal activities, we believe that educational continuity is important and can lend a sense of calm and stability. We are committed to continuing to offer learning opportunities for students as well as guidance for parents on what they can do to help their child(ren) progress. While we know that we may not be able to provide the level of personalized education that each student would normally receive, we intend to provide as much as we can through the channels that are available to us.

Over the next several days, our staff will be working diligently to prepare coordinated and consistent on-line instruction for your children. The purpose and goal of this work is to provide instruction and tasks that will maintain learning and prepare students for future schooling when we return. Teachers will be setting up Google Classroom accounts and inviting students to connect in the online management system. Many of the teachers have already created a Google Classroom account, and have been actively working with your child throughout this break from school. If your child has not received an email from their teacher, I would encourage you to touch base with your child regarding their email account. In the near future, they will be receiving updates from Google Classroom, specifically their teacher(s) inviting them to join their virtual classroom. If you are unfamiliar with

Google Classroom, you are welcome to [learn more about Google Classroom here](#). This will be the platform teachers use beginning next week to share instruction and assignments.

We thank you once again for your continued support and flexibility as we travel this journey together. We may not be able to accomplish everything, but with your help, we **will** accomplish **great** things.

Be well and please stay healthy and home.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. VanderJagt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "V".

Dr. VanderJagt
Superintendent of Schools