

Hudsonville Public Schools

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April 12, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope this communication finds you and your family doing well. I'm certain that we are all impacted on a different level regarding COVID-19 and continue to wish you and your family the best. I will miss hearing about 5th-grade camp, end of year parties, spring sports, and all the events to culminate a successful school year. We will celebrate our students in each of our own fashion, and I appreciate the positive impact you are having on each of them during this time in our lives.

We have moved several activities, had to cancel many, and some are still in question. I'm so sorry to report that 5th-grade camp, 8th-grade East Coast Trip, and all end of year class celebrations have been canceled. I know our building leaders have reached out regarding these events, but please let them know if you have additional questions. We have officially moved graduation for the Class of 2020 to August 2nd at 7:00 PM. This will be held at Eagle Stadium on the Baldwin Street Middle School site. Over 600 parents/students responded to our survey, and nearly 90% requested this date as the best option. I know this date might not work for everyone, but we thank you in advance for your understanding and flexibility. We are optimistic that the [Stay-at-Home](#) order will be lifted by that date for us to truly celebrate these amazing seniors. Most of our summer camps and activities for June have been canceled. We will be updating you regarding these events in the days and weeks to come.

As we return to our remote learning program this week, following a unique spring break, we know we can't accomplish quality learning without your support. We will continue to increase accountability regarding curriculum expectations, and to some degree, you will notice an increase in the time students may be spending engaged in their class activities. Our goal continues to be preparing your child for the next steps in their educational career. You can anticipate about 30-45 minutes of daily learning for lower elementary, 60-75 minutes for upper elementary, and 90-120 minutes of daily learning for middle and high school students. High school students will see the greatest increase in rigor, as state requirements still require them to successfully complete the Michigan Merit Curriculum expectations. There will likely be some specific times in which your child's teacher(s) will want to meet virtually as a class; however, most of the instructional process will be available for students to access when it's convenient for your family. Learning during this time is both important and expected, but personal relationships are also a priority. Your child has a classroom teacher(s), but we also have other staff filling support roles should your child need more assistance or just has some questions. We greatly appreciate the time and compassion you have displayed to your children as you help navigate their education setting from a remote location. While their education environment might look different, we know we can accomplish great things as we continue to work together as a team. Our administrative and teaching staff have been working hard to prepare additional appropriate instruction for your children, all while doing our best not to increase anxiety and stress at your home.

I know the timing of our non-homestead operational millage request might not be ideal, but I want to bring your attention to the great importance this millage has for our district. On May 5th, Hudsonville School parents and community members will have the chance to vote on our annual non-homestead millage renewal. As you may have heard, this election will be primarily conducted by absentee ballot. You most likely received an application in the mail this past week regarding this election cycle. We ask that you please fill out that application, so you will be mailed an absentee ballot. We will share more information regarding the impact this has on the operational budget for our district in the near future. As a reminder, this is an annual renewal request that voters have approved every year for the past 25 years and

would generate approximately 5.3 million dollars of operating revenue for our school district. As a reminder, this is not a tax on primary residences and is not a new tax. We do encourage you to apply for an absentee ballot, but if this is not an option for you, please get out and vote that day.

We will continue to keep you updated regarding the impact this pandemic is having on our district, and future communications will move to a weekly update near the end of each week. We do know that since Governor Whitmer issued her extension of the [Stay-at-Home](#) order, we continue to ask for your support regarding social distancing. Our fields and facilities continue to be closed, and we appreciate the understanding of the measures we are taking to protect the safety of those around us. Thank you again for all your support and continue to check our [website](#) for up-to-date information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug VanderJagt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Doug VanderJagt, Ph.D.
Superintendent