

Hudsonville Public Schools

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May 1, 2020

Dear Parents,

Once again, I truly hope you and your families are doing well. It's hard to believe that we are now in the month of May. Each and every day, our staff are in conversations regarding how much they miss seeing your children. We know we will get through this, but we certainly are looking forward to seeing the students in our buildings next fall.

I wanted to remind you of the importance the May 5th non-homestead millage election has on the operational budget for Hudsonville Public Schools. This is an annual renewal request that voters have approved every year for the past 25 years. The millage would generate approximately 5.3 million dollars of operating revenue for our school district. Keep in mind that this election will be primarily conducted by absentee ballot due to the unusual circumstances caused by the coronavirus. If you are a resident of Hudsonville Public Schools, you should have received an application in the mail regarding this election cycle. Keep in mind that all ballots must be received at your respective township office by 8:00 pm on May 5. Know that this is not a tax on primary residences and is not a new tax. We do highly encourage you to vote by an absentee ballot, but if this is not an option for you, please get out and vote that day at your local township office.

We have so many things to celebrate during this unique time in our lives. Most recently, Hudsonville Public Schools has been recognized in the annual [News & World Report 2020](#) rankings as a top school in the state. This is very exciting news! The article was off on our high school enrollment by about 550 students, but it is exciting to celebrate the success of our district.

Our amazing Food Service department, with support from our Transportation staff and Administrative team members, continues to provide meals for those families in need during this pandemic. Beginning next week, May 4, we will be moving to a central location at the high school for pickup. We will continue food pickup for any child age 0-18 (or up to age 26, for young adults with special needs) on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm at Hudsonville High School in the North parking lot (5037 32nd Ave, Hudsonville).

At the end of next week, you will receive an email inviting you to participate in our community survey with other parents and residents as an essential element in our Strategic Objectives to Achieve Results (SOAR) 3-year strategic planning process. Your responses guide the decisions that will be made to improve the education programs, community programs, and related services we deliver to our community's children. The very fact that we are now in our fourth long-term planning cycle (SOAR IV) is a testament to the value of our planning process, which always includes the opinions of our parents, community, students, and staff.

We have received many questions regarding what school might look like when we start in the fall. Please be assured that we will be developing plans based on any restrictions that may still be in place to keep our students and staff safe. As we remain positive, we are fully anticipating that school will start as scheduled in the fall. We will keep you posted regarding summer camp programs and return to school timelines in the coming weeks. Our Leadership team is also discussing the end of year festivities and collection of personal items from your respective buildings. At this time, we hope to use the first week of June to allow you to collect items from the school.

The partnership between our staff and community is what makes our district a premier district in the state. Our [website](#) is continually being updated, so we encourage you to use this resource to stay informed. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you do to support our students, our staff, our community, and each other.

Sincerely,



Dr. VanderJagt
Superintendent