

Hudsonville Public Schools

3886 Van Buren • Hudsonville, MI 49426 • (616) 669-1740 • Fax: (616) 669-4878

May 15, 2020

Dear Parents,

Once again, I truly hope you and your families are doing well. As you can imagine, there are a lot of moving parts right now as we wind down the school year and prepare for the next. This update includes a wide range of information, so please note the headings regarding each particular item.

Class of 2020

Today marks the last day for our senior class. While we celebrate their success in our district, we are also saddened by how their senior year has come to a close. We thank each and every one of them for their resiliency during this pandemic. They are amazing young adults that will do great things in their future. Next week Thursday was to be their graduation, and we will certainly celebrate that day with them as they pick up their caps and gowns. We are looking forward to an in-person graduation ceremony, which is now scheduled for August 2nd at 7:00 pm at Eagle Stadium.

Non-Homestead Millage

Thank you all very much for your support of our non-homestead millage. The overwhelming support of our community for our district is greatly appreciated. On behalf of our Board of Education, staff, and students - thank you!

Family Resources

Our district continues to strive to meet the social-emotional needs of our students, even in the context of remote learning. We wish to continue to partner with you to support the current and future social-emotional needs of our students. You are invited to peruse the resources available on our website related to mental health [via this link](#) and/or follow us on social media to receive updates on available resources or discussion/training opportunities either hosted by the district or community agencies. To highlight one specific resource, you can find a video message [on this portion of our website](#) (scroll down to the center of the page). This video features Dr. Stephanie Grant, of Developmental Enhancement, on the topic of coping with stress during COVID-19.

Summer Construction

With components of the stay-at-home order being lifted, construction work slated for this summer will begin to come to fruition. Roofing materials were delivered to the Baldwin Street Middle School campus late last week and the re-roof work will begin in the next week. Also of great importance, the parking lot restructuring at Forest Grove Elementary will begin in the next couple of weeks. Both projects are expected to be completed by the end of the summer. While all of our facilities remain closed through the end of June, we are targeting July 6 as an anticipated start date for some of our summer camps. Please look for the community education summer brochure to be emailed in the coming week. All classes and camps will provide safe environments for our youth by following our district's [COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan](#).

Personal Items Still at School

Some of your children still have personal belongings in the buildings. We are planning on scheduling a time for you to come to pick up those items during the first week of June. You will receive information from your building principal regarding pick up times and location for your child's items. We also want to celebrate a rather interesting 2019-2020 school year on June 5. We will be sharing these details with all of you in our next update.

Report Cards

We have received some questions regarding grading practices. As you know, we are not assigning any grades to student work during this remote learning period. Due to this reality, we will not be sending home the end of year report cards at the elementary level (PK-5). A general comment stating your child's progress in the current grade level's standards allowing for promotion to the next grade level will be entered on each child's report card that will be filed for documentation purposes. At the secondary level (6-12), your child's teachers will be placing CR/NC (credit/no credit) in PowerSchool as an indication of advancement to the grade/next course of instruction.

Class Placements for 20-21

As students and families bring closure to one school year, we know that much anticipation also centers around teacher assignments for next school year. For many reasons, including potential staffing changes for the 2020-2021 school year due to current retirements, we will not be providing class placement information in June. Additionally, as we work to effectively place pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students into classrooms, we will conduct remote kindergarten screening in the coming weeks. We know how important this information can be for calming nerves and adjusting to what comes next for many of our students. Please know that as soon as we are able, we plan to communicate class placements for the 2020-2021 school year.

Next Fall

All of our administrative team members are deep in conversations regarding the start of the next school year. Please know that we fully anticipate students will receive face-to-face instruction in our buildings this fall, and that we are working on plans to ensure the safety of all staff and students in that environment. Several of our conversations also pertain to enrollment numbers and how this impacts staffing projections. For that reason, if you have a young child that is about to begin school in the fall, either pre-kindergarten or kindergarten, please make sure that you begin the enrollment process. Some of our pre-kindergarten classrooms are filling up, and we want to make sure we have room. [Enrollment information](#) can be found on our district website.

SOAR Survey

If you have not done so already, please take the time to fill out our [community survey](#). This is 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.

THANK YOU

As we begin to close out the school year, we would like to thank you again. We are so blessed to live in such a supportive community that cares deeply for the success of their children. We know we have challenges ahead of us, but with your continued support, we can accomplish great things. 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 of Schools