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Byron Area Schools

March 13, 2020

Dear Families:

Wow! The last three days have been a little crazy, especially with the meetings and conference calls with many local and state organizations. Participating in all of these conversations allows us to make the best decisions for the health and safety of our students and staff.

Listed below are specific details with respect to following Governor Whitmer's order to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Instruction

1. We encourage students to maintain contact with teachers through online platforms to stay engaged and up to date with content. We understand this may not be possible for all families, but we want to provide an opportunity for students to engage academically in these next three weeks. Examples include: Khan Academy, IXL, Zearn, TechSmith, Kami, Google Classroom, Schoology, Edmodo, Zoom, and Freckle. Even with these online learning opportunities it is important that they remain voluntary and will not be graded. In addition, some of our teachers have created and will be sending home "packets" of learning materials.
2. "Khan Academy offers practice exercises, instructional videos, and a personalized learning dashboard that empower learners to study at their own pace in and outside of the classroom. We tackle math, science, computer programming, history, art history, economics, and more. Their math missions guide learners from kindergarten to calculus using state-of-the-art, adaptive technology that identifies strengths and learning gaps."

Every child in Byron Area Schools has access to Khan Academy at school and at home. Some of our teachers use Khan to enhance and differentiate instruction in the classroom. We encourage you to visit www.khanacademy.org.

3. Students participating in dual enrollment and virtual classes (DEEP, Early College, online classes) must proceed according to the direction of the institutions providing instruction.
4. Overall, the most important academic skill to emphasize with your child is to read! All of these ideas are very important especially since we have not been provided any direction that would alter the state assessment schedule.

Co- and Extra- Curricular Activities

1. The Drama of "Mary Poppins, Jr" will be rescheduled at a later date. This is a change from our plan released 24 hours ago.

2. All student activities are canceled and/or postponed, including NHS Induction, Project Based Learning Events, FFA Labor Auction, Literacy Night, Battle of the Books, Athletic Banquets, Club and Organization practices and events (Drama, FFA, Robotics, etc.).
3. All athletic practices, competitions, and team building activities are canceled effective immediately following school today until April 6th (the Monday after Spring Break). No decisions have been made, locally or by the MHSAA, regarding the Spring athletics season at this time.

Use of Buildings

1. All school activities and events are canceled at the end of our instructional day today through April 5th.
2. All community events and activities that have been or are usually scheduled to use any Byron Area Schools' buildings are canceled and will not be scheduled until after April 5th.
3. Students and staff are not permitted to be in the buildings or on the premises of the schools (including the weight room and outdoor athletic fields) during this three week period for any reason.

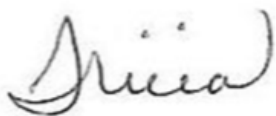
Calendar

1. The end of the third marking period has been rescheduled for April 9th.
2. Commencement will continue to be held on Sunday, May 31st, as originally planned.
3. At this point, decisions have not been determined with respect to the instructional time. There is a possibility that we may need to extend the end of the academic year.

This plan revolves around our additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures for all classrooms, offices, bathrooms, hallways, lockers, athletic facilities, and busses. We have worked with our Maintenance and Custodial Staffs to make this happen by the end of the custodial shift tonight. If people enter any of these areas, it contaminates and negates our efforts.

It is very important that all of you continue to access your email on a regular basis throughout these next three weeks as this will be the main method used to communicate, especially with the fast moving changes during this situation.

Educationally yours,



Tricia Murphy-Alderman, Superintendent