

Superintendent Communiqué



Midland Public Schools
Inspiring Excellence

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MPS INCLUSION & DIVERSITY VISION STATEMENT

Everyone in our school community is valued, safe, treated with kindness and respect, and works together to make our community and world a better place.

SPECIAL EDITION COMMUNIQUE

March 12, 2020

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) UPDATE

As you know, this is our third communication in as many weeks regarding the plans and steps Midland Public Schools is taking regarding the COVID-19 virus. Be assured we will continue to communicate as is needed! It appears the virus-spread changes daily and, therefore, our responses and actions need to continue to be timely, agile and adaptable.

We would like to again remind you that our District utilizes the most credible resources possible regarding the virus and recommended actions:

- ➔ Center for Disease Control link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>
- ➔ Michigan.gov coronavirus link: <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus>

In light of the World Health Organization declaration last night of the COVID-19 status as a global pandemic and the Governor of Michigan announcing confirmed cases in Michigan, we want to share with you our current plans for keeping students and staff healthy while continuing to support learning.

With this in mind, we will enact the following measures as of Monday, March 16, 2020 until further notice.

- ➔ **All student award programs and assemblies where large groups are involved will be suspended at this time.**
- ➔ **All school events where public participation is involved will be suspended.**
- ➔ **All District-sponsored student and staff travel will be temporarily suspended.**
- ➔ **All MPS facilities are closed for scheduled community meetings, rentals and gatherings.**
- ➔ **Before and after school care programs will be ongoing to not cause hardship for parents, however, we encourage families to evaluate use as COVID-19 status evolves.**

I am asking for families to prepare for the possible scenario that Midland Public Schools would need to close for an extended period of time.

The Governor has declared a State of Emergency, and we are taking COVID-19 very seriously. Our goal, with your help, is to prevent illness from this virus locally.

In the event MPS needs to close, we are preparing to provide educational opportunities to our students through our online platforms, resources and one-to-one device platforms. We will release more information should this occur.

MPS does not believe online learning is a replacement for face-to-face learning, but a way to keep students and staff connected with learning until face-to-face learning becomes a safe option. School make-up days could be a necessary possibility as well.

As promised, we will continue to work closely with health officials and continue to keep the District lines of communication regarding the COVID-19 virus timely, agile and adaptable with all MPS stakeholders! Because this is a rapidly-evolving health event, we will continue to communicate as often as we have new and relevant information to release.

Thank you for being our partner in our efforts to keep all MPS family members healthy and protect student learning.

Michael E. Sharrow, Superintendent



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