

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 13, 2020

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) UPDATE — All Michigan Schools Closed March 16-April 5, 2020

As you have no doubt heard by now, at 11:00 p.m. last night, Governor Whitmer gave the directive to close schools from Monday, March 16 through April 5, 2020. **Midland Public Schools will, of course, be following the Governor's directive and will be closed from March 16 through April 5.**

We know there are many questions and concerns from all MPS stakeholders on a variety of topics and not a lot of clear answers at this point. MPS promises to work through the issues diligently—always with the mindset of having the students' best interest at the root of all decisions.

MPS has been preparing to provide our students with continued learning opportunities to prevent learning loss via an online platform. We will be providing staff online teaching training opportunities early next week. The details of this training will be discussed today with the Midland City Education Association to determine how this will occur.

Today, all school-provided student devices will go home as this will be a key tool to keep your child connected to learning opportunities during this closure. If your student was absent today or does not arrive home with their device, we ask you call your school office during normal school hours next week for assistance.

If a student does not have connectivity at their home, we ask parents to notify their school office, and we may be able to provide some assistance.

We expect the online opportunities to provide a way for MPS students to stay connected to learning, but it will not be a one-for-one replacement for the learning that occurs in our classrooms.

It is our intention to provide daily updates on as many questions as you may have. We plan to have further direction for parents and students early next week on how to formally connect to online opportunities.

MPS will be receiving guidance from the Michigan Department of Education in the coming days. This includes our free/reduced breakfast and lunch programs. We will update you as soon as we can on this topic as we want to provide these meals to our students if possible.

Later today, we will have a prominent link on the front page of the MPS webpage that contains all of our COVID-19 communications in one easy-to-find location. The link will be continually updated. Here is the link: www.midlandps.org

Once again, I know there are a wide range of questions on a variety of topics that we do not have answers to at this time. We ask for patience and flexibility as we work through this unprecedented time and circumstance. We promise to provide daily updates as we progress. Watch for my next communication to come your way on Monday, March 16.

Michael E. Sharrow, Superintendent

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



MPS CONNECT is a great communications tool for you to connect with me. Every message comes to my desktop. Either I or a member of our staff will do all we can to reply to your message the next work day. Click here to connect with me: <https://goo.gl/forms/ciB8b7FAMXb4pQxN2>