April 2, 2020

Dear Comstock Park Families,

We were encouraged today to receive guidance concerning the remainder of the school year. While this news is important for us to begin to roll out our remote learning plans and expectations, our primary concern is the safety and well being of our most precious resources, our families and children! It is with great sorrow that it has been confirmed that face-to-face instruction will no longer take place for the 2019-2020 school year. I am certain that this brings a great deal of anxiety to many of our families. The good news is that our team has been planning for this day for the past few weeks. In fact, there are many examples of staff members and buildings who have already begun to support our children with review and enrichment opportunities through incorporating various remote learning strategies.

In the coming days, you will receive building level communications from your principals outlining plans for students to pick up personal belongings and learning materials. In some cases, this will include a curriculum packet for those grade levels, courses, and also students who may not have access to devices or the internet in order to access online materials. We are working very hard to assure that everyone has an opportunity to learn and access materials that work for them and their families.

To date, we have prepared and provided thousands of breakfasts and lunches to qualified students. We will continue to do this through the balance of the school year. Our food service and transportation personnel who have worked tirelessly, at the risk of their own safety, to provide this service. We cannot thank them enough!

I’ve told you many times how much I value our teachers and support staff who always go above and beyond the call of duty to meet each child’s individual needs. They are continuing to step up and meet the challenges presented by developing and incorporating this newest version of education. They continue to do everything possible to make sure our kids do not lose an academic year to this unprecedented pandemic.

We are working with Kent Intermediate School District and all other local superintendents to share best practices so the transition will be seamless among our school districts.

As the parent of a senior, I know how heartbreaking it is for them to miss out on so many activities and a traditional graduation. Hopefully, the spread of this virus will become modified in a positive way by all of us following the Governor’s Stay Home Order and social distancing. Mr. Holden and his staff are working very hard to develop plans and find creative ways to honor our graduates and have met with students virtually to develop ideas.

Governor Whitmer has made it clear that seniors who are on track to graduate will be able to graduate. Our commitment is to provide all seniors an opportunity to graduate provided they meet the requirements. We have also been assured that, provided students are on track and participating in our remote learning plan, all students will be promoted to their next grade level. In addition, all standardized tests for this year will be postponed to the fall of the 2020-2021 school year and/or cancelled. Current Juniors and students who need to take the SAT for college entrance requirements should anticipate testing during the month of October.
I know how important it is for us to communicate these details with you and pledge to continue to do that as new information becomes available. Our top priorities are SAFETY AND LEARNING for our students. As we provide opportunities for students to come to schools to get materials, we will all practice social distancing, will have hand sanitizer available and each school will have been expertly cleaned before this happens.

I know how challenging all of this is for you. As trite as it may sound, I’m very confident we will get through this together. In the two years I’ve been your superintendent, the one constant I’ve experienced is the great value placed on education by both parents and staff members. Please don’t hesitate to call me or send an email.

Sincerely,

David Washburn
Superintendent