March 12, 2020

Special Notice Regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear Students, Parents, Staff and Community Members:

Yesterday, Governor Whitmer and representatives from the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services announced recommendations for keeping students and staff healthy while addressing the risks associated with the Coronavirus. We have received detailed guidance from the Kent County Health Department, the Michigan Department of Education, and Governor Whitmer’s Office.

Our immediate plan for reducing the spread of COVID-19 in our school/community while advancing student learning is based on three factors:

1. Avoiding unnecessary exposure of our staff and students to illness.
2. Working to the best of our ability to ensure the continuity of teaching and learning in Kent City.
3. Protecting the health and well-being of our community, especially those who are most vulnerable to illness.

With this in mind, we will enact the following measures, effective immediately:

- All field trips are suspended until further notice.
- All assemblies and performances in our schools involving participation by the general public are suspended until further notice.
- All athletic events will continue in accordance with guidance issued by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). Updates will be posted at www.mhsaa.com.
- Measures are being taken to ensure all hard surfaces in the District and on our busses are disinfected regularly throughout the day.
• Additional education for our students and staff about good hygiene practices (see list below).

1. Stay home if you are sick, and advise others to do the same.
2. Always cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue or sleeve.
3. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
4. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
5. Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and warm water are not available.

We will continue to take any and all measures to keep our children, staff, and school community safe. The situation involving this health challenge is rapidly changing and we will update you as additional guidance is received. Thank you for your attention and support regarding this important topic as health safety is our number one priority.

Sincerely,

Mike Weiler
Superintendent