COVID-19 School Update

April 2, 2020

Dear GHAPS Parents,

As many of you have undoubtedly heard, Governor Whitmer issued a new executive order that has closed schools for the remainder of the year. While this answers some of our questions, many more remain. Here is what I can share with you today:

- We have been preparing for a potential long-term closure, and appreciate all your support of the remote learning teachers have been providing thus far. Our formal remote learning plan is nearly complete but will require approval by the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District. Thanks to our close collaboration with the ISD, we expect this to be a smooth and efficient process.

- Spring Break – April 3-10 – will remain a week off. We expect to officially begin remote learning on April 15. Our last day of school for the 2019-20 school year will remain June 5, 2020.

- Remote learning counts! We will keep our seniors on track for graduation, and all our students on track to move to the next grade level. Our teachers will demonstrate a good faith effort to providing high quality instruction, and our students need to demonstrate a good faith effort to participate in remote learning. We’ll determine more specifics in the coming days.
Overall, connectivity has been strong throughout the district, but we will continue to work with individual families as needed.

- Students in grades 3-12 already have their Chromebooks, and we are planning to distribute iPads to our Y5-2nd grade students via curbside pick-up after Spring Break.

- Spring assessments have been canceled, and statutory requirements that utilize assessment data (like Read by Grade 3) are suspended for the year. Rising seniors will take the SAT in the fall, and the PSAT will be administered in the fall as well.

- Our food program will continue to provide meals. Any changes in pick-up dates or locations will be announced on our Facebook page and website.

- The Governor’s order offers districts significant flexibility in next year’s start date. Our current focus is on establishing an effective remote learning plan for this year, but as soon as it’s feasible, we’ll work on establishing next year’s calendar.

In closing, I want to say thank you. Every day, I witness the Grand Haven community rallying around students, parents, teachers and each other. I am so proud to be a Buccaneer!

Watch for more details from your principals and teachers as we work to launch our remote learning plan. I have confidence that we will, as a team, navigate these new waters successfully.

Sincerely,

Andrew Ingall, Superintendent
Grand Haven Area Public Schools