

April 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

The current health pandemic has changed how we do everything and it is certainly causing a different ending to a school year than any of us have ever experienced. Despite all of that, there is still much that is in our control and many things that we can do to help our students succeed.

This letter is to try to help provide some clarity about what we do know and help explain how we are going to complete the 2019-2020 school year. In a world that is used to instant information and feedback thanks to the advancement of smartphones and the countless apps that go along with them, we are finding that we have to still practice a bit of patience as the path we are traversing in education is unprecedented for us. What of the goals in education is to prepare students for global change...what bigger change could we prepare for than the one we currently face?

Our plan for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year will be written as we go. Attempting to put together the perfect distant learning plan will take trials and tribulations, but you are strong and resilient...remember, we are Wildcats!

Senior Class of 2020 Information

- Seniors PASSING all required classes prior to March 13th will graduate.
- Seniors NOT PASSING all required classes prior to March 13th will be contacted individually by their teachers and will be given the opportunity to bring those classes to a passing grade and then will be recommended for graduation. Marking period 3 grades must be made up by May 15, 2020.
- Final transcripts will be sent to educational and career training institutions at the end of the year.
- Second semester grades will be credit/no-credit or pass/fail only. This is being done statewide and all schools are being directed to have some notification on the document referencing COVID-19.
- Scholarships will still be rewarded. New scholarship information will be sent directly to seniors.
- The actual date, time, location, of the graduation ceremony will be revisited when we have more up-to-date information outlined by Governor Whitmer. All other events are cancelled.

All Students Grades 7-12

- Students who were PASSING their classes prior to March 13th will earn credit for the semester.
- Students who were NOT PASSING their classes prior to March 13th will be provided the ability to earn a passing mark through distance learning opportunities. Students will be contacted by their teachers and the students will either work electronically (Google classroom format) or via hard copy via paper packets. It is the goal to have all students bring their 3rd marking period grades up to passing so they can earn credit for the semester. All 3rd marking period grades must be made up by May 15, 2020.

- Students taking dual enrollment courses...the college is continuing on with your coursework. They say that they have been in contact with you through your college email account. If you haven't kept up, please contact your professor immediately
- Students taking courses through Cheboygan High School – they have been attempting to contact you as well. They have instructed us to tell you to look at your Cheboygan email account for additional information.

All students K-12

- Students K-6 will be automatically promoted to the next grade level unless retention was recommended previous to the shut down. Your child's teacher will consult with you as to the final decision.
- All students will IEPs and 504s will be provided services remotely as best we can to support their individual goals and objectives. Parents will be contacted individually.
- The main goal of distance learning will be for students in grades K-12 to receive remote, enrichment learning, either online or via paper packets. We are still compiling the results of our Technology Survey and if we haven't heard from you yet, we will be contacting you shortly.
- What will lessons look like? The main goal is to reteach; enhance what was previously taught; enrich previous lessons; and supplement prior knowledge. Now is not the time to try to advance through additional state objectives...it is the time to try to minimize the learning gap that can occur due to the lack of face-to-face instruction.
- Students are expected to complete the assignments they are provided. The mind needs to be exercised just like the rest of our body. Teachers will have "office hours" when parents or students can contact them with any questions. The exact schedule of those hours will be distributed shortly.
- Remote internet access points are being placed throughout the district. These sites will not be accessible at all times, but will be available at different times and different places throughout the week. The school wi-fi is currently available Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Other remote sites are being planned and will be updated soon.

Please abide by the social distancing rules and guidelines set in place by Governor Whitmer. Internet users are required to stay in vehicles at all times. Areas such as the playground and baseball/softball fields are strictly off limits to stay within guidelines.

We cannot let the pandemic prevent us from doing our best to support students. While this will all be a huge adjustment for everyone, we have full confidence in our students, parents, staff and community and we will all get through these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

James R. Emery

Superintendent/MSHS Principal

Heather Olds

Elementary Principal