

Huron School District

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Completely Committed to Kids

Donovan Rowe, Superintendent
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December 1, 2020

Dear Huron Families,

I hope that you and your family took some time to relax last week and that you had a great Thanksgiving. I wanted to take a moment to provide information and direction pertaining to the most recent communication from the Wayne County Health Department pertaining to Wayne County School Districts.

As we approached this school year, we had an understanding that we would have to be flexible and intentional about our communications and instructional programming. We knew that the possibility was there that we may have to pause our face-to-face instruction in a specific building, or even the whole district, if the need arose. We also anticipated that the time may come when the region was forced to move backwards in our COVID progress.

Recently, the Wayne County Health Department issued a **Public Health Advisory** pertaining to school districts in Wayne County. This advisory has a direct impact on schools and our instructional programming.

The Advisory outlines direction from the Wayne County Health Department to all Wayne County school districts to “temporarily shift to a remote learning model through January 15, 2021” for all K-12 students. In addition, the Wayne County Public Health Division Director, Carol Austerberry, stated that schools should suspend “in-person instruction of pupils” and that in-person instruction “should be discontinued through January 15, 2021” for K-12th grade students. Mrs. Austerberry’s letter also calls for the “suspension of extra-curricular sports and related school sponsored gatherings” during this time.

As a parent and an educator, I have been grappling with the ever-changing direction from the health department while attempting to balance the need to continue to provide in-person instruction to our students. Since the onset of this crisis, the Huron School District has complied with the guidelines, restrictions, and protocols outlined by the Wayne County Health Department, the CDC, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Although I feel that it is imperative to keep students in the classroom, I am also conscientious when it comes to our health department’s requirements, protocols, and direction.

In the past two days, I have met numerous times with representatives from the Monroe County Health Department and the Wayne County Health Department in order to discuss our local numbers and the health situation in the region. Health department officials continue to express concern over the current regional/local health situation as well as the “14-day incubation period” following the New Year’s Holiday. After consulting with local health department officials, they are continuing to direct the Huron School District to suspend in-person instruction at this time and to continue a face-to-face instructional “pause” that runs through January 15, 2021.

It is with a heavy heart that I must announce that the Huron School District is suspending face-to-face instruction for all students (K-12) through January 15, 2021. In an effort to provide the students and staff with the safest and most purposeful learning environment possible, and in compliance with the direction of the WCHD, it is necessary to take this step. **Students will be working remotely during this time and will be scheduled to return to in-person instruction on January 19, 2021.** During this period, **students will continue to learn remotely 5 days per week, with synchronous instruction every day.** We will continue to use our Google Classroom platform to deliver instruction and to interact with

students and classes. Please note that students participating in some center-based special education programming will receive additional information pertaining to their student(s) and the delivery of instruction.

I am aware that suspension of face-to-face learning is hard on our families, students, staff, and community. As a result, I have every intention to return students to face-to-face instruction on January 19, 2021, following the expiration of the Wayne County Health Department's suspension of in-person instruction.

Please understand that I have never wavered in my belief that it is best for students to have the option for face-to-face instruction, and I will continue to work hard to provide that to students in the Huron School District. Our district has worked tirelessly in order to provide students and staff with the safest and most purposeful learning environment possible. I am absolutely committed to returning students and staff members to classrooms as soon as possible, and I will continue to work hard to make that happen. We will continue to work closely with the Wayne County Health Department and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services as part of these efforts.

District Food Service:

District Food Service will be continuing their pick-up service model. Pick up will take place on Mondays and Thursdays in the Huron High School bus loop from 1:00-3:00 on the following dates:

- *Thursday, December 3, 2020*
- *Monday, December 7, 2020*
- *Thursday, December 10, 2020*
- *Monday, December 14, 2020*
- *Thursday, December 17, 2020*
- *Monday, January 4, 2021*
- *Thursday, January 7, 2021*
- *Monday, January 11, 2021*
- *Thursday, January 14, 2021*

Technology Support:

All students should have a device through which they can connect with their teachers during synchronous classroom learning every day. If you experience technological or connectivity issues, please contact your building's front office. More information pertaining to technological support will be coming from your building principal as part of the building level communication.

Although the suspension of face-to-face learning is unfortunate, we are confident that we will persevere through this together. As I stated previously, a tremendous amount of planning and preparation has taken place in order to design a flexible learning plan that allows us to remain nimble, while offering an instructional delivery system that ensures student success. Thank you for your support, patience, and understanding during this time.

Sincerely,



Donovan Rowe
Superintendent of Schools
Huron School District