Friday, April 3, 2020

Dear staff, students, parents and community members,

Governor Gretchen Whitmer’s order closing all public and private K-12 school for the rest of the school year raises numerous questions for our students and families. We are working cooperatively with the state Department of Education and the other Jackson county school districts to answer those questions as soon as possible.

**Some things we know:**

Our physical school buildings will remain closed through the end of the school year in June.

Learning will continue for our students for the remainder of the school year. This will look different, but instruction will continue.

Food services to students in our local districts will continue.

Seniors on track to graduate this year will receive their diplomas.

All other students will advance to their next grade at the beginning of the next school year, assuming their school district determines they were on pace to advance before the shutdown.

We will provide educational opportunities for our students that they can access without attending classes in their school building.

As you can imagine, this is a huge change for all schools. This may involve some combination of online learning and printed materials. A major concern is that all students have equal access to these opportunities. We will provide more details as we have them.

Michigan’s 3rd-grade reading law will not be enforced this year. That law recommended that 3rd graders who are behind in reading be retained in 3rd grade.

High school juniors will be able to take the SAT next fall. Those tests will be paid for by the state.

**Your schools and teachers are doing everything they can to protect our community and families, and make these difficult times as productive as possible for our children.**

We understand that there will be many, many questions about our normal year-end routines and celebrations. We will be as responsive and creative as possible as we grapple with how to best support students and families in these uncertain times.

We will be looking at everything from graduation to grading, from schedules to student progress, and from academics to the emotional well-being of our children. Nothing is “business as usual.”
Our parents have been amazing. They are taking up the challenge of keeping their children engaged and learning. We thank you for that. Also remember this: your most important role as a parent is to take care of your child. Experts say you should talk with your children, and listen to what they’re saying. Talk about their fears, their concerns, their worries. Learning can occur in all sorts of ways: cooking, cleaning, playing games, and just living life.

We greatly appreciate your support and understanding. We will continue to communicate with you as plans become more solidified and additional answers become available. We will provide an update and a preliminary plan for continuing to support our students’ learning no later than Wednesday, April 15th.

We encourage the community to visit your district website, watch for emails from your district, and follow your district’s Facebook page for new information.

Sincerely,
JCISD Superintendent Kevin Oxley