April 4, 2020

Dear Hazel Park Schools’ Families, Staff and Community Members,

First, I want to express my profound appreciation for our staff and students who have remotely engaged on learning tasks for these past three weeks, during the school building closure due to the COVID-19 outbreak. I continue to be proud to work with such a dedicated group of educators and students.

I am sure you are aware that yesterday Governor Whitmer issued an extensive executive order that provided direction to all of us regarding how school will occur for the remainder of the school year. If you want to read her entire order you can at this link.

Over the week of Spring Break our administrative team will carefully review not only that order, but the expected regulations regarding it provided by the Michigan Department of Education and Oakland County Schools. I anticipate that after Spring Break we will have more clarity regarding this situation and will share more specifics with you, but at this time based on the order from the Governor, I believe the following to be true:

- Hazel Park Schools will continue to provide instruction through packets and online instruction for the remainder of the school year remotely unless the Governor deems it safe to physically return to school. This instruction will become more structured with set times for your students to work with teachers on and off line.
- Students and teachers will continue to work together and learn together through the end of this school year. In other words, school is not over (even for our seniors)!
- HPS Nutrition Services are continuing our Free Breakfast and Lunch including during Spring Break starting Monday and going through Thursday (with eight meals per student on Thursday to cover the weekend) from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at United Oaks, Webb and the High school. Deliveries, in the case of disability or illness, are ongoing by a great group of volunteers.

While at this time I believe the above to be true, we still have many unknowns as we continue down this path. The following are just some of the items that require more clarity. Some of this clarity will be provided to us by the Michigan Department of Education and Oakland Schools, other elements of this clarity will be identified by HPS during the coming weeks. Below are a list of some of the items of which I am most often asked and my current thinking regarding each:
• Student recognition and transitions - While this shutdown has impacted all of us, certainly our students anticipating a transition, especially our seniors, have been profoundly affected. Prom is cancelled and High School graduation is unknown at this time. It is our intention to move forward in the healthiest possible direction and we are looking for creative ways to ritualize this special moment.

• Grading, credits and student grade promotion - Governor Whitmer said that our seniors will be able to graduate if they are on track. Our administrative team is developing recommendations including a plan for the students who are not on track. We are determined to find ways to help your students schedule their learning as you will see when you look at their packets and review their online folders. The one guarantee you have from me regarding this issue is that the work our students have done, and the work they will be doing through the end of the school year, will matter, be valued and count. We will share more specifics with students after spring break.

• Student access to buildings - Since school abruptly closed, students have not been allowed to return to our buildings. An initial review of the governor’s order seems to indicate that parents may pick up students’ materials and belongings. We will work to obtain more clarity on this issue as at this time we do not have our staff inside our buildings. We will develop a plan for everyone after break that will keep staff and parents safe while picking up your students items. Please be patient as we will be adhering to social distancing rules.

Crucial Information for Families
Starting April 13, through the last day of school on June 11, Hazel Park Schools will be providing a more robust instructional curriculum for students. We are establishing many ways for students to access these by supporting our families’ need for technology. If you have indicated a need for your student/s in our Internet Access Survey, our Technology department has been busy acquiring devices to ensure your student/s have connectivity at home. Technology staff will email families about delivering devices starting Tuesday. We can only provide our students devices if we know they need them, so please complete it, if you have not.

During the week of April 13-17, materials will be available on-line and for the sake of social distancing, we recommend that you take advantage of this if you have access to the internet. If you are unable to download the curriculum or can not print out the materials, on April 9th and 13th from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., we ask that you sign up on this Pickup Schedule to pick up packets in 5 minute appointments. Please line up on Elza and we will have a person on the street that will allow the next car drive up to the building. We ask that you line up in your car with a sheet of paper with your student’s name/s on the windshield. We will be using gloves and masks as we
put them into your trunk if possible. If unable to pick up packets, please let us know by calling 248-659-5200.

We will also have Special Education IEP Progress Reports available at a table at Ford on April 13, which is the second day of packet pick up. If you need to pick up packets and have a child with special needs, we ask that you schedule your packet pickup on the 13th. Elementary reports will be labeled by classroom name and secondary will be sorted by grade and caseload. We will mail IEP progress reports that are not picked up.

All report cards will be available via MiStar instead of being sent home this marking period. If you have difficulties, please contact your building principal.

**Recognizing Transitions and Milestones**
Please know we are thinking about how this impacts our student’s mental and physical health. I cannot guarantee traditional ceremonies or set dates for when these might happen, but please know this rests heavy on our hearts. We are thinking of those transitioning to kindergarten, new buildings, middle school, high school and graduations. We are working on ways to make some of these most anticipated events special, even as timing and details remain up in the air. We welcome your input and involvement.

We ask that you keep the photos and suggestions for balance and humor coming, and keep that line of communication open with your teachers, administrators and me. Now more than ever, if you have insight into how we can continue to improve your student’s education, we are open to your thoughts and we will need your feedback so we may adjust our plan during this unexpected redirection.

While we do not have all the answers, we appreciate your partnership. Families are doing an amazing job balancing school and family stresses. We are here for you, and we cannot tell you how much your kind words of support have meant to our staff and teachers. Our community has never been more "All In All The Time."

**With Students In Mind,**

Dr. Amy Kruppe  
Superintendent