MARCH 18, 2020

Dear Hazel Park Schools Families and Community,

This is an unprecedented time in our country battling the COVID-19 coronavirus and, like all of you, we are trying to make the best decisions for everyone, particularly the Hazel Park Schools students.

As we all adjust our current reality, we will try to keep you informed as we acquire more information.

Thank you for those who entered the buildings briefly Monday to retrieve student packets. The process had some hiccups and we were reminded of our community's understanding of the circumstances.

This update shares information about the Home Enrichment Resources, wireless connectivity and the HPS communication channels.

HOME ENRICHMENT RESOURCES

HPS takes seriously the mission of educating every student every day while in the classroom. We also take special care regarding our students emotionally. The following plan is built on the foundation that we cannot replicate the classroom experience and we are trying to minimize student and family stress. All resources are optional and designed to offer students the chance to enjoy learning, at their own pace and discretion.

HPS also recognizes that our teachers need to take care of their own families during this time. In addition, the information we receive regarding the situation changes frequently. We are doing the best we can with the information.

● Please be sure that you are staying in tune with your child’s emotional state. This is a very unsettling time and your child’s mental well-being should come first over academic learning.
● Teachers will not assign new classwork through April 5.
● There are many things that children can learn during this time that are just as valuable as core content. This is an opportunity where students may learn to cook, work around the house, write a letter, practice filling out a job application, interviewing skills, create a resume, enjoy the outdoors, among other opportunities.
● Teachers are working on report cards for the work that has been completed so far and report cards will go out after spring break.


- State-standardized testing (M-STEP) remains suspended. Our State Superintendent Michael Rice has written to Betsy Devos to eliminate state assessments for this year. AP testing will be communicated at some point in the future.
- HPS Enrichment and Review Resources are posted.
- If your student needs help accessing either their Enrichment Packet or has questions regarding accessing their grade level on our Home-Based Resources page, please contact your Principal.

**WIRELESS CONNECTIVITY**

With many residents remaining home as they practice social distancing, Internet access remains a priority.

Comcast shared information on Monday, with a few offers. From the press release: Xfinity WiFi hotspots across the country will be available to anyone who needs them for free – including non-Xfinity Internet subscribers. For a map of Xfinity WiFi hotspots, visit www.xfinity.com/wifi. Once at a hotspot, consumers should select the “xfinitywifi” network name in the list of available hotspots, and then launch a browser. New customers will receive 60 days of complimentary Internet Essentials service, which is normally available to all qualified low-income households for $9.95/month.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Please rely on official sources of communication to obtain information about the district’s intentions and plans. The hazelparkschools.org website and social media channels will be monitored and updated as usual during the school closure. If there is a pressing matter, please contact the district at communications@hazelparkschools.org.

Thank you for your patience during this uncertainty. Even as your students are away from our classrooms, we know they are growing in the world and learning in many unseen ways. We look forward to having them back in our schools and all of us together as soon as it is safe.

I wish the best for you and your families in this period of time.

With Students In Mind,
Dr. Amy Kruppe,
Superintendent