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 up to date as possible.

BUILDING ACCESS/CLEANING

With COVID-19 spreading, cleaning the facilities is critical. To accomplish that in the most effective manner, the buildings will be closed from Tuesday, March 17 to Sunday April 12, for all personnel, public and HPS staff members. The Centers for Disease Control shared that the virus can live up to three to six days on a hard surface. As a precaution, the district has closed all buildings, to ensure any potential remnants of the virus are eliminated.

Beginning the week of March 23 and continuing the week of March 30, the cleaning crews will disinfect the buildings and technology with only limited access to certain HPS staff members.

PHYSICAL HEALTH

The health and safety of HPS students remains a high priority and, even away from the HPS buildings, remaining vigilant about health is essential. As Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said, mitigation of the virus is the reason for closing schools and that should remain foremost in everyone’s thoughts during the period away from school as well. Please monitor students and all others in their families for any signs of compromised health.

Oakland County has set up an Emergency Hotline for COVID-19 (248-858-1000). It is important for families to be aware of the signs of the virus and to report to a health official if symptoms indicate concern of the situation.

Patients with confirmed infection have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

The precautions and recommendations from state health officials remain in place. The best prevention for viruses, such as influenza, the common cold or COVID-19 is to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, stay home, and avoid contact with others.
MENTAL HEALTH

With such a significant disruption, students may be confused or struggling to process the extreme events of the recent days and weeks. There are many resources available from reputable organizations to address anxiety and explain the virus, as well as the process unfolding. We have posted a number of these on the COVID-19 page under Explanatory Resources for Children & Families.

Our HP students and families remain in our thoughts, even as they are away from the buildings during this required closure. HPS will continue to share information as it evolves and is pertinent to our students and staff. Resources continue to be updated on the Hazel Park Schools COVID-19 page, day by day and often hour by hour.

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 HPCommunications@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 your student 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