March 19, 2020

Dear Hazel Park Schools’ Families and Community,

The first week of our school closure is almost complete. I have been virtually meeting daily with our ISD (Oakland Schools), fellow superintendents, and today, the MDE and the Governor’s office. I know there are still so many unanswered questions and timelines as to when school and life will return to what we know as normal. As soon as we have answers to those questions I will communicate them to you.

In the meantime, I have to say that it has brought me great joy to watch the outpouring of support from our community. On that note, our Nutrition Services department has handed out thousands of meals this week. I encourage you to tell all individuals under 18 years old to take advantage of the breakfast and lunch that is available to them. I can not thank our staff enough for all of their time and effort to help our community.

I know that the daily rhythm of life has changed significantly for all of our families. Some of you are juggling working from home along with your children’s needs. Some of you are laid off and dealing with that stress. I have included some resources I hope may be of help:

- [Talking to Children About COVID-19](#): National Association of School Psychologists
- [Coping with Stress During Infectious Disease Outbreaks](#): Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
- [Talking with Children about Coronavirus](#): CDC
- [Helping Children Cope with Emergencies](#): CDC
- [How to Talk to Your Kids About Coronavirus](#): PBS Kids
Additionally, I am sure many of you have been faced with the question as to if your child can get together with friends. Here are some links regarding that topic for guidance:

- **CDC Recommendation**: Discourage children and teens from gathering in other public places while school is dismissed to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community
- **Coronavirus is Here. Should Kids Still Have Playdates?** Fatherly Magazine

Finally, there have been many questions about the expectation to deliver a mandatory online learning program for our students. It is important for you to know that, if a school district mandates distance learning to count for instructional hours, the district is responsible for ensuring that all of our students have access to a device with internet connection. Until we are able to ensure that all of our students are equipped with these essential elements, we are not able to require online instruction and/or distance learning to count for grades. We are however, giving extra credit for the assignments that are completed. With this in mind, we remain dedicated to student learning during the closure period by providing families with a variety of high-quality enrichment and learning opportunities that will help students remain engaged in grade-relevant content from home.

Here are some great links to optional learning resources to help your child engage in learning in fun and creative ways:

- **Math Playground**
- **National Geographic**
- **Social Studies Games**
- **Ted/Ed**
- **BrainPop**
  - User Name: HazelParkSchools
  - Password: wearehazelparkschools3
Please know that all of our district communications that have been sent to you regarding COVID-19 can be found on this webpage – Hazel Park Schools District Updates.

With Students in Mind,

Dr. Amy Kruppe
Superintendent