April 2, 2020

Dear Wildcat Families:

Earlier today, Governor Whitmer issued Executive Order No. 2020-35 "Provision of K-12 education during the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.” The order requires that “in person instruction for pupils in kindergarten through grade 12 is suspended for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.” District leadership is in the process of reviewing the seventeen-page executive order and planning accordingly. In the interim, please see below for information that may be helpful for parents and students.

Please understand that this is a significant transition and the district understands the connectivity challenges that many Marcellus families face. I am asking for patience and support as our exceptional faculty and staff work to transition from traditional face-to-face instruction to a delivery method that looks very different. Please see below for a rough timeline.

1.     March 16 to April 1: Michigan schools closed and Marcellus, like most school districts, provided alternative learning or engagement opportunities for students via paper packets and other digital resources. **Please note that these processes are still in place and can be used until new opportunities are developed.**

2.    April 2- the executive order was delivered to all school districts in Michigan.  We have been given a due date, April 28, for the start of new distance learning options.  Local Intermediate School Districts must approve the plans as the representatives of the State. 

3.   April 3- the state plans to deliver a template/format districts will use for the development of our learning plan. (April 3 is the day spring break officially starts for Cass County schools)

4.    April 8- Intermediate School Districts will be ready to assist with the development and review of districts’ plans.

5.    April 13- 17- District staff has been working on distance learning options for our students in the event of an extended closure. Now that we have more information included in the executive order, staff will focus on additional planning and professional development to implement the new distance learning plan. Our goal is to work with our exceptional staff in order to develop and deliver quality remote /distance learning (both digital and paper-pencil as needed)

6.    April 17- The target date for the district plan submission and approval.

7.    April 20- The target date to begin the new process for distance learning. In the event that goal cannot be met, the plan will start no later than the required April 28 date.

Rest assured that our learning plan is being developed with two forms of delivery, including electronically for those who have access to adequate internet and devices, and printed learning packets for those who do not.  We are committed to meeting the needs of all students and will do everything we can to prevent our students from being negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We will continue to update the school community as the learning plan is developed. We know there will be many questions and some hiccups as well. However, know that Marcellus Community Schools is here to support our students and families.

Finally, we are committed to celebrating the accomplishments of our seniors. At this time, we do not know what that celebration might look like or when it will take place. However, we will solicit input from the Class of 2020 and their parents in the coming weeks.

Please stay safe and follow the Center for Disease Control recommendations, including social distancing. We will get through this together.

Sincerely,

Nanette Pauley, Superintendent

Marcellus Community Schools