

Gibraltar School District

Amy Conway, Superintendent
19370 Vreeland Road, Woodhaven, MI 48183
Visit our website at: www.gibdist.net

Phone (734) 379-6351

Fax (734) 379-6353

Parent Communication

Friday March 13, 2020
1:30pm

Good Afternoon GSD Families,

We have been working diligently throughout the day to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information in light of the closure of all school districts within the State of Michigan enacted by Governor Whitmer late last night. Our COVID-19 district action team has explored multiple options and has determined not to pursue an online learning requirement for students at this time. It is important to our district to keep as many students engaged in learning while school is closed, so staff will begin to gather learning resources to provide support for our students and families. There will be no required learning, activities, assignments, or assessments assigned during this time period and no grades will be issued during this time period. For all grade levels, a progress report may be issued after Spring Break, but a 3rd quarter report card will not be issued for elementary students. Students are still able to utilize web-based learning platforms that are commonly utilized in the classroom. Look for additional information coming from building principals or classroom teachers providing additional resources to support our students' continuous learning at home. Additionally, we will maintain a general list of educational resources and place them in one location on our website, www.gibdist.net. The remainder of this message is designed to allow families to easily scan and find the most relevant information.

Items Left at School/Technology: All district buildings will be open on Monday, March 16, 2020 from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm for parents and students to pick up items that they need during this extended break. The district recognizes that many families and students may wish to utilize district-issued technology devices during their time away from school. Please note that students are not required to have these devices. Additionally, **up until this point, students in Young 5s through second grade have not brought home an iPad or other device and will NOT be permitted to bring these devices home given the level of responsibility that these devices require (this is a change from a previous email sent on 3/12/2020).** As a reminder, district-issued devices are to be used for district/school authorized activities only, as previously agreed to in the Student Technology Acceptable Usage Agreement.

School Lunch Program: We recognize a need for some of our students to obtain breakfast and lunch through the National School Lunch Program. We are actively developing plans to address this need within our school community. We will share that plan with the community once we receive guidance and direction from Wayne County and the State of Michigan.

Required State Assessments: Many questions have been presented about required state assessments, such as M-STEP, PSAT, SAT, and ACT WorkKeys. The Governor has stated that she will be working with the Department of Education to develop plans and guidance on this topic.

Special Education: Our special education administrators are working with the Michigan Department of Education to actively develop plans to address this need for our students. This plan will be shared with our special education families once we receive guidance and direction from the Michigan Department of Education.

School Events and Athletics: All school events are also canceled while school is not in session. This includes all athletic activities including winter sports banquets, spring sports tryouts/practices, clinics and scrimmages/games. When school is back in session, more information will be available about athletic events as well as any activity fee payments or refunds that need to still be taken care of. This also includes school events like Kindergarten Round-up, field trips, PTO events, and school sponsored events. Similarly, to athletic fees and payments, events that have been cancelled during this period will be granted reimbursement.

Spring Break: There has been no discussion on moving spring break in Gibraltar at this time.

Events after April 13th: We realize there will be questions about school and district events later in the year (5th-Grade Camp, Washington DC, Chicago, Prom, Graduation, etc.) and we are working diligently to monitor this and as more information becomes available, we will communicate with our community. At this time, we don't have any information regarding if the school year will be extended.

Local Scholarships: Many local scholarship due dates will pass through this extended time away from school. All local scholarship deadlines have been extended until April 17, 2020.

We want to again, extend our appreciation to GSD families and staff for their understanding and support as we continue to monitor and make the best decisions for our students, staff, and district. It is important to remember that this situation remains fluid and ever-changing. Please be advised that all communication will be dated and timestamped in order to limit confusion and help keep a shared understanding of district decisions and actions.

Sincerely,

Amy Conway

Amy Conway
Superintendent