



March 13, 2020

To the Students and Families of Ovid-Elsie Area Schools:

As you are aware, Governor Whitmer has closed all schools beginning Monday, March 16, 2020 until Sunday, April 5, 2020. Thus, all of our schools will be on an extended break until Monday, April 6, 2020.

Although we are not aware of any cases in our immediate area, District officials are very concerned about the spread of the virus and we will be taking precautionary steps to sanitize and disinfect our schools, buses, kitchens, equipment, and much more over the course of the next few days.

At this point, all school activities are suspended until we have further guidance from the Governor's office, Michigan Department of Education, and/or the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. This will include all field trips, assemblies, gatherings, events, and athletic practices/competitions.

All personal items need to be picked up by 3:30 p.m. today Friday, March 13. After today there will be no public access to buildings.

Our teaching staff will be meeting on Monday to create and share extended learning opportunities for students. Please look for that communication early next week from each building.

Please be mindful of preventative hygiene practices to help mitigate the risk of spreading the virus such as:

- Stay home if you are sick, and advise others to do the same.
- Always cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue or sleeve.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and warm water are not available.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

These suggestions apply to businesses, workplaces, schools, community organizations, health care institutions, and individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and health profiles; everyone has an important role to play.

This link also provides suggestions:

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/MDHHS_Interim_Recommendations_for_COVID-19_final_683589_7.pdf

Over the course of my 20+ years in education, I have never dealt with such a rapidly evolving situation. However, I am confident that our government officials and health experts will continue to provide us with the guidance we need to help ensure everyone's safety. For the latest information, please see [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.michigan.gov/Coronavirus) or [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/Coronavirus).

Wishing you all a safe, healthy and peaceful break,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan L. Cunningham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. Ryan L. Cunningham, Superintendent, Ovid-Elsie Area Schools