

PINE RIVER AREA SCHOOLS -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Update, School and Event Closures/Stoppages

3:30 p.m., March 13, 2020

At a press conference late last evening (March 12, 11:00 p.m. EST), Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and State Superintendent Michael Rice announced that all K-12 school buildings—public, private and boarding—are ordered to be closed from Monday, March 16 to Sunday, April 5, 2020, in order to slow the spread of COVID-19.

**In compliance with this directive, Pine River Area Schools will be closed from March 16 through April 5 with school to resume on Monday, April 6.**

After walking through our options this morning at an ISD-wide meeting conducted in Cadillac, Michigan, the following decisions are being implemented at Pine River Area Schools, effective immediately:

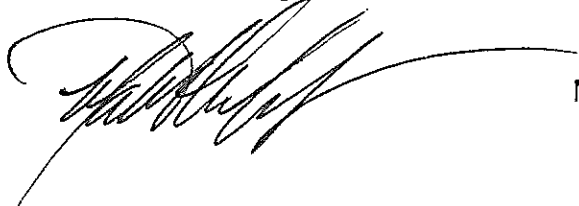
**All events scheduled at Pine River Area Schools from March 14, 2020, until April 6, 2020, are canceled until further notice. Per MHSAA, this includes all spring sports practices and competitions. There will be no exceptions while we honor the governor's edict and current laws, mandates, directives, and formal guidance. Prior to April 3, further decisions will be made as more information is gathered. This is a fluid situation and we may have to make new decisions with little notice. Please continue to monitor our website, check the "news" section, and follow us on Facebook.**

This school closure will be very hard on many folks. The next few weeks may bring relief and a change of stance on opening our doors or there may be a need to extend the closure. We have to be patient, and take heed of our circumstances as a community, state, nation, and world.

Different schools will have different answers based on resources, certification of programming, and personnel/other contracts. Rather than attempt to go back-and-forth and conduct meetings for each and every request and examine every new contingency, it has been decided that folks operate better when there are plans based on a commitment. So, with all that in mind, for the next three weeks (March 14 – April 5), we will shut down completely and lock our doors.

- When we face tough situations and base our decisions on what is best for the greater good, we are acting as a family and nothing is stronger than family.

*Hope feeds our energy level, positivity, passion for life, our kids, and the future of us all. Faith gives us the peace we need in turbulent times. Love for family and one another gives us the strength to stand when all we want to do is lie down.*



Matt Lukshaitis, Superintendent, Pine River Area Schools