



## **Paw Paw Community Unit School District No. 271**

**P.O. Box 508 • 511 Chapman Street • Paw Paw, IL 61353-0508**

Eve Phillips  
Principal

Email: [ephillips@2paws.net](mailto:ephillips@2paws.net)

Tel: 815-627-2671 x224

Fax: 815-627-8481

March 13, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Paw Paw C.U.S.D. #271 Administration continues to monitor updates regarding COVID-19 or the Coronavirus. We are receiving recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Lee County Health Department(LCHD), the Illinois State Board of Education(ISBE), and the Regional Office of Education.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic. A pandemic simply means that the disease has spread around the world at a greater rate and scale than expected. Many Illinois colleges and universities have also responded by lengthening their spring breaks and switching traditional face-to-face courses to an online format.

We would like to remind everyone to help prevent the spread of illness by doing the following:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

The Illinois State Board of Education has asked all Illinois school districts to plan for the possibility that, in an effort to slow down the spread of the coronavirus, schools could close for some time. They are asking that all school districts come up with e-learning plans as soon as possible. In compliance with this suggestion, Paw Paw CUSD #271 will be putting together an alternative education plan that may include an online component, handouts and packets. We will be applying for permission to use e-learning days should they be necessary. Please know that this is a contingency plan only. The IDPH and the LCHD continue to recommend that schools hold classes.

In consultation with the Lee County Health Department and information provided by the CDC and the IDPH, we are considering postponing or canceling district- and school-sponsored events that involve large gatherings with parents and community members outside of the regular school day, until further notice. More information regarding this will be communicated at a later date.

Please continue to monitor the school district's website and our email communications, as we work to provide more details about this as quickly and as responsibly as possible.

---

Information regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found online using the resource links provided below.

Illinois Department of Public Health  
<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/>

Center for Disease Control  
<https://www.cdc.gov>

Illinois State Board of Education  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/ready/Pages/default.aspx>

We thank you for your patience and understanding. All decisions are being made with the safety and well-being of our students in mind, and we are being as responsive as possible with the most reliable information we are receiving.

We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you updated.

Sincerely,

Lynn M. Gibson, Ed.D.  
Steve Epperson, Ed.D.  
Interim Superintendents

Eve Phillips  
Principal