

OLD FORT LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Home of the Stockaders

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March 19, 2020

Dear Stockaders,

As I mentioned in coronavirus update #2, our district plan was to have an expert train our staff on Google classroom technology this past Monday during our scheduled teacher inservice day. This training and prior staff knowledge would have enabled our faculty to provide virtual lessons for many of our students instead of simple "blizzard bag" packets which largely provide busy work. These have been poorly received by most parents and students in past attempts. I applaud our three principals, technology coordinator, and faculty for their efforts to provide a virtual option blended with some hard copy work.

Unfortunately, the weekend brought major changes in Ohio's battle against the coronavirus as Governor DeWine closed many other venues and discouraged large gatherings of people. It became obvious to our Leadership Team that allowing our staff to work in close proximity Monday and Tuesday was not a safe option for our staff. Allowing 600 plus families to enter our buildings on Wednesday to secure technology equipment and instructional supplies would have been irresponsible and in violation of the Governor's guidelines.

Since my Monday update #2, it has become clear our country is in an unprecedented battle. Restrictions on restaurants, bars, movie theaters, gyms, hair salons, closing of businesses, auto factories, stores and the postponement of voting in Ohio are all a sign of the times. While we are scheduled to return to school on Monday, April 6, time will tell if this comes to fruition.

I met with our building principals this morning and they have compiled many virtual resources our students and families can use in the next two weeks. Both building principals will reach out to families on our social media platforms on Monday, March 23. These resources will include lessons in reading, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, and physical fitness. If you do not have a computer or appropriate device at home, we will provide a Chromebook for use during this school closure. We will provide distribution times and places in each principal's update on Monday.

Please follow the Governor's guidelines in the coming days. If we all do the right things and keep Safety as Job One, we will certainly see each other again much sooner. Please remember to look for the principal's updates this coming Monday.

Sincerely,

Tom Peiffer
Superintendent