LOCKLAND LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

March 30, 2020

On March 30, 2020, Governor Mike DeWine made an announcement ordering all of Ohio's public, community, and private K-12 school buildings to remain closed **through Friday, May 1** due to the coronavirus health crisis. As we get closer to this date, the Governor said he will re-evaluate his decision and decide on whether to re-open school buildings or continue the building closure.

We know the Governor's order to close school until May presents a challenge to our families. Our district is working diligently to partner with you in furthering your child's education and well-being.

What does this mean for our students?
Although our school buildings are to remain closed, remote learning will continue. We will continue to adjust and administer our virtual learning plans and expectations, provide student services and resources to the best of our ability, and distribute free meals to our students. Printed packets of materials will also be provided for students who do not have online access. See details below.

Will school staff be working?
Yes, our school district is providing food and remote learning options to children. Administrators are actively planning and responding to this national health crisis. Teachers are creating lesson plans and engaging with their students remotely.

During scheduled school days, our teachers will be available via email from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. to support our parents and students. Teachers and building principals will be sharing via email their remote learning plans and expectations with parents and students on an ongoing basis. For those students who do not have access to online learning, hard copies of assignments by grade level will be available each Monday at door #13 from 11 a.m. - 12 noon.

Administrators and support staff will also be working remotely and available between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. on weekdays via email. You can also leave a voicemail and we will return you call in a timely manner.

What about food service?
Feeding operations are ongoing despite the stay-at-home orders and will remain in place throughout the remainder of the school closure. Staff will continue to comply with the most current health guidelines.

Students can still pick up food and their homework packets on Mondays from 11 a.m. – 12 noon at door #13. At that time, one week's worth of food (both breakfast and lunch) will be distributed.

What about mental health support?
Our professionals are reaching out to families to ensure they have open lines of communication during the closure, and to make alternative plans if necessary. Our counselors will be monitoring emails and reaching out to our school families in need.

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If a student or parent is in crisis, you can reach out to the following local hotlines for assistance: Hamilton County: Talbert House Crisis Hotline (513) 281-CARE (2273) or text Talbert to 839863.

What does this mean for graduation?
Our high school administration and teachers will be working together to ensure that students in the Class of 2020 are on track to graduate. If a student was on track to graduate prior to the building closure and continues to complete his or her assigned school work, the student will graduate. Our high school team will be working with teachers to identify students who may need additional assistance to meet the requirements for high school graduation.

We are unsure of what May and June will look like, but know we will make every effort to hold a graduation ceremony and celebrate this important milestone for our students and their families.

What about state testing?
There will be no state testing this school year. The Ohio Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 197 addressing significant changes for education in Ohio due to the COVID-19 crisis.

On March 27, the Governor signed the legislation with the following changes:
● Waives state testing requirements for this school year.
● Waives state report cards for this school year.
● Allows high-school seniors to graduate if their school determines they were on track to do so before classes were interrupted

What about services to students with disabilities?
Our school is making a good faith effort to provide such services. If a student with a disability cannot access the alternate delivery models being offered to general education students, then the district will consult with parents and/or caregivers to determine the needs of the student and identify the most appropriate means for meeting those needs during the closure period.

Questions?
If you have any questions, you can email your child's teacher, your building principal, or me and your email will be returned in a timely manner. For all questions related to your child's assignments, please email your child's teacher or the building principal. You will find contact information on the school website at www.locklandschools.org.

We have also set up a dedicated page on our website for all the announcements, resources, and updates on Coronavirus (COVID-19). You will find this under the Parent/Student Information tab on the home page. A subpage under the COVID-19 page has links by grade level to our alternative education plans.

We are experiencing a health crisis that none of us has experienced in our lifetime. There will be bumps along the way, but your child's teachers, counselors, building principals, and our support staff are here to work with our families to support you and your children.

I am so proud and appreciative of our staff, students, and community who are working together to support each other during this time

Sincerely,

Bob Longworth
Superintendent