



Monday, March 30

ECS Seniors and Families;

Good evening. As we enter our third week of the state mandated COVID-19 school shutdown I wanted to take a moment to update all families on several important issues related to the 2019/20 school year.

First, I want to stress to everyone that we have communicated openly and honestly with all of our students and parents the moment that information has been available to us. As of this evening all schools in Michigan are officially closed through Monday, April 13. While this closure has not been officially extended we expect the Governor's Office to provide new guidance this week and are anticipating that the closure will be extended.

To that end, the ECS teaching staff has been actively planning for what education in Ellsworth will look like in the coming weeks. Our teachers have been meeting virtually in grade bands (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12) to develop lessons and materials which can be delivered to students in a remote manner. While we acknowledge that remote learning is far from ideal, we are determined and prepared to do the very best that we can for our students and families under these unprecedented circumstances.

Barring a curveball from the State of Michigan, our current plan is to take next week (April 7-10) to communicate our final remote learning plan to families, arrange for delivery of materials and technology, and prepare students for what their education will look like in the coming weeks. Then starting Monday, April 13 we plan to start "teaching" again.

What this new form of education will look like will depend on a student's grade level, their access to technology, and several other factors. Starting early next week a member of the ECS teaching staff will be making personal phone calls to every student/family to explain what their individualized plan will look like, to describe when and how materials will be delivered, and to answer any questions.

I want to personally thank all of our students and their parents for their patience and support as we transition to a different form of learning for the foreseeable future. I would also like to thank and commend the dedicated educational professionals at ECS who have been working diligently the past two weeks to plan and prepare for delivering the best educational product possible to the students of ECS.

Please do not hesitate to reach out individually with any specific questions or concerns. I will do my best to answer openly and honestly.

Sincerely,

Aaron Gaffney, Superintendent

ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY SCHOOL
"Small School Relationships ... Big School Opportunities!"

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