

April 1, 2020

Dear Holyoke Community,

Thank you for all your patience and understanding during this trying time for our students, staff, district and community. As you are aware, Governor Polis on March 18 issued an Executive Order directing all schools to suspend in-person instruction through April 30th, 2020, in order to limit the spread of Coronavirus.

Additionally, you should be aware that the governor said there is a high possibility in-person instruction will not resume this school year. As a result, changes will be necessary for some important educational functions, such as the number of teacher-pupil instructional hours, special education and graduation requirements.

As a district we also want to ensure that students, staff, parents and our entire community are able to deal with the Coronavirus and the side effects it may have on everyone's mental health. For some students school is the best part of their day and the place where they know they have someone that will be there for them regardless, no exceptions. School for some is the place where they know they will have a hot meal for breakfast and lunch each day and where they will be able to socialize with peers. For a student to leave the district on March 12th, 2020 and maybe not have an option to return the rest of the year is devastating, it creates anxiety and negative emotions. Please remind and encourage students to reach out to their teachers, their coaches, their principals, and their peers during these unprecedented times. For immediate help and support please contact Colorado Crisis Services at 1-844-493-TALK (8255) or text TALK to 38255 or visit their website at [www.ColoradoCrisisServices.org](http://www.ColoradoCrisisServices.org). They provide confidential and immediate support 24/7/365 for individuals in crisis and who are in need of professional help, information or referrals. All calls are connected to a trained professional who will engage in immediate problem solving with you.

The Colorado Department of Education has waived the minimum number of school days and teacher-pupil instruction hours normally required under state law. Instead, districts must make every effort to provide alternative learning opportunities during this time. For the Holyoke School District, this means that we are not expected to extend the school year or start early next year to make up for lost in-person instructional time. As a result of the possibility of an extended period of disruption on in-person instruction, we will transition to continuous learning through a modified on-line learning experience. Either your child's teacher(s), support specialists or building principal should have reached out to your child or you early last week to start the process but if not please contact your child(s) building principal. I have been extremely proud of the response and complete work that the Holyoke teachers, IT Department and support staff were able to make all of this happen in such a short amount of time.

Our schools will make every effort to provide appropriate special education and related services for students with disabilities. We have been given some flexibility on how to provide these services, so we are thinking about other ways to meet the needs of students with disabilities based on the nature of a student's disability and individual needs of the student. To support students with identified IEP-related services, we will work with our

schools to determine whether it is appropriate to provide alternative services or delay services in coordination with students' parents and IEP teams. We may also determine whether we can make up for a gap in access to the curriculum or delay in services with additional services in the future.

Graduation requirements across Colorado are locally determined by school districts and charter schools. This means that we have flexibility to adjust requirements for the class of 2020 based on this unprecedented time of disruption to our schools. The Holyoke School District is advocating and considering all options to hold a graduation ceremony at some time for our seniors, their families and our staff to have some closure regarding this major accomplishment in our seniors' life.

Due to the Coronavirus and stay at home order there will be limited staff working in the district daily until further notice. Please leave a message at the building level if you need anything or have any questions. The expectation will be to have someone listen and respond to messages once a day. Please visit the school district website for up-to-date and additional information, [www.hcosd.org](http://www.hcosd.org).

Once again thank you for your patience and understanding as our students, teachers, our district, our community, our state and our entire country navigates how we adapt, how we adjust and how we make the most of the opportunities we have due to the Coronavirus and the impact it makes on each of us.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kyle Stumpf  
Holyoke School District RE-1J Superintendent  
[stumpfky@hcosd.org](mailto:stumpfky@hcosd.org) [www.hcosd.org](http://www.hcosd.org)