



# SUPERIOR CENTRAL SCHOOLS



P.O. Box 148 Eben Junction, MI. 49825    Ph: (906) 439-5532    EL Fax: (906) 439-5734    HS Fax: (906) 439-5243

April 9, 2020

Dear Superior Central Families,

I wanted to use this letter to inform you of some of the plans for the rest of the “school year”. When the Governor made the decision to close schools for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year each district was tasked with creating a Continuity of Learning Plan (CLP). Once each district has written their CLP it has to be submitted to the ISD/RESA for approval and then the ISD/RESA will submit the CLP to the State. The window to submit CLP’s to the ISD/RESA is April 8<sup>th</sup> – April 28<sup>th</sup>. Our CLP was submitted to MARESA on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. MARESA has indicated that the earliest they will submit to the state in Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. We hope that our CLP is approved and submitted so that we can begin “official” teaching and learning on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Once the CLP is submitted and approved, we must post it on our website. I’ll use this letter to give you the highlights of what we submitted as I am confident our plan will be approved.

In the CLP we had to consider key guiding principles:

- Keep students at the center.
- Design learning for equity and access.
- Assess student learning

The CLP also needed to address nine questions/statements from Executive Order 2020-35 regarding student instruction, delivery of content, and accountability.

- Superior Central will offer alternative modes of instruction through a hybrid method using both online tools as well as “paper/pencil” packets. For those students who have internet access but do not have a device, chromebooks will be made available. For students with no internet, we will be mailing home hard copy packets. Teacher recordings of lessons may also be provided via the internet or flash drives. (We will establish a chromebook pick-up schedule for the week of April 13<sup>th</sup>)
- Teachers will be asked to “check in” with every student either electronically or by phone once a week. Electronic meetings can take place in a google classroom, zoom, or other meeting forums. These class meetings will allow students and teachers to maintain positive connections with the school and each other. In addition, teachers will be provided with feedback from students regarding educational progress and/or concerns they may have during this time.
- We understand that not all students have access to equitable learning. We plan to mitigate that by offering learning that fits the need of each individual student.
- While most students in our district (85%) have access to the internet only 16% have access to internet speeds higher than 10 mbs. This means that our families may not have access to an internet connection capable of streaming multiple live events. The live K-12 class meetings will be scheduled at different times during the week. 20% of our students do not have their “own” computer at home or would need to use a parent’s work computer to complete learning online.



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- Teachers will monitor student learning via weekly check-ins. Class meetings held on Zoom, or the like, will allow teachers the opportunity to check in on academic progress and promote interest in a new topic of learning. Progress of those students who are able to access online resources like Study Island and IXL will be monitored by the teacher. This information will be utilized to direct future content. For students without technology access, learning packets will be discussed during the weekly phone call.
- Students will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Students in 12th grade who were failing required courses to graduate (as of March 11, 2020) will be given the opportunity to complete necessary coursework to graduate; this coursework may be online or paper/pencil. While we realize that we may not have the participation of every student, teachers will continue to reach out and communicate with all parents and students. Teachers will keep a log of student participation in the alternate modes of instruction offered, both for students with technology access and without. Teacher who have inconsistent communication with a student or parent will contact the assistant principal or principal to develop a plan to connect with the family. Additional support agencies may be sought out to make these connections.
- Our School Social Worker will continue to be available. The School Social Worker will put together “Weekly Wellness” resources to disseminate through teachers including age appropriate tips and activities for positive mental health. Teachers can still refer students to the School Social Worker to make contact at home, if needed. The School Social worker will directly check in with students whose IEP/504 Plan designates Social Work services.

I know we keep hearing this over and over, but this is an unprecedented time in history. We have never done anything like this before. But, it’s true. I have many of the same questions that you have. Like, how do we juggle working from home and teach our kids? What happens when my internet connectivity doesn’t support us all on the internet? What happens when my kid has a melt down? We are in this together. We are going to get through this. If this process involves tears, step away. Take a break. Go outside for a walk. Do not make anything more stressful that it already is.

If you have any questions or need anything, please reach out.

Sincerely,

Bill Valima  
Superintendent/K-12 Principal  
Superior Central Schools