**COLEMAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

***Academics, Arts, Athletics, Agriculture – Growing for the Future!***

Administrative Offices

4823 N. Coleman Schools Dr., Coleman, MI 48618

*www.colemanschools.net* Phone (989) 465-6060 Fax (989) 465-9853

## ***SPECIAL SUPERINTENDENT COMET COMMUNITY UPDATE***

## ***THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020***

I want to continue to thank our custodians, administrators, board office staff, food service team, and bus drivers for their diligence and efforts this past week. Thank you also to volunteers in the community and local churches: Wesleyan, Community of Christ and Faith United Methodist for their energy and caring of our students that made it possible to get 18000 breakfasts and lunches out to our Comets this week. The priority as always is the safety of our students, staff and community and I will continue to work hard in that effort. This continues to be a difficult and uncertain time for everyone, but a time to be calm, find time to take walks, support those around us. Knowing that we are all working together makes it easier. The goal now is to make this manageable, to show our children calmness and kindness so that we can all come back stronger.

The cascade of information from various State and Federal organizations continues hourly. I believe I’ve received over 300 emails in the past week on this topic alone and virtual meetings are occurring multiple times daily. I greatly appreciate the many agencies for getting information to us clearly and as quickly as possible. Our decisions are based on recommendations at the State, Federal and Local level, so that I may provide you with on-going information. I can be reached at [jmccormack@colemanschools.net](mailto:jmccormack@colemanschools.net) or 989.465.6060.

* **Precautionary Measures-** While this is very uncharted territory for so many of us, foremost in our minds should be that the closures are precautionary measures to slow the spread of the virus. The best comment I have read was: “…it’s really an amazing act of social solidarity.” The goal is for all to do their part to support each other. Do not spread rumors or social media for your information. Use responsible websites such as those from local Health Departments, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html](file:///F:\2019-03-25%20KRG%20Server%20Files\COVID-19\www.cdc.gov\coronavirus\2019-ncov\about\index.html) or Michigan.gov coronavirus link: [www.michigan.gov/coronavirus](file:///F:\2019-03-25%20KRG%20Server%20Files\COVID-19\www.michigan.gov\coronavirus) for updates.

The best prevention for viruses, such as influenza, the common cold or COVID-19 is:

* + If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19, call your health provider or the nearest hospital. Patients with confirmed infection have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of: fever, cough, shortness of breath
  + Wash your hands often with soap and warm water
  + Avoid touching your eyes, nose or moth with unwashed hands
  + Cover your mouth and nose with tissue or upper sleeve when coughing/sneezing
  + Avoid contact with people who are sick
  + If you are sick, stay home and avoid contact with others
  + Stay at least 6 feet away from others when in a public setting
* **What If I Have Information or Questions to Share-**The best way to contact us is [jmccormack@colemanschools.net](mailto:jmccormack@colemanschools.net) and I will route your question or respond to it as appropriate. You can also call 989.465.6060. Emergency needs, as determined by administration, will be responded to first, followed by other contacts as we are able. The Board Office is not open to the public.
* **Food for Children-** Food will be provided to **all** children 18 and under, or students with IEPs through age 26, regardless of whether they are a Coleman student or not during this closure. This includes those who are students who receive Free or Reduced lunches AND those who do not. It also will include weekdays and weekends. Please read the following carefully. The Google Link that was available earlier this week is closed.

**So as not to waste food, those who have already signed up earlier this week are all set. For any who have not already registered, please do one of the following by Friday 3/20 at 9:00 a.m.:**

**1) via email to** [**jmccormack@colemanschools.net**](mailto:jmccormack@colemanschools.net) **including ALL necessary information on the form attached (this is the preferred option and be sure to leave your phone number);**

**2) via PM on Facebook under Jennifer McCormack with all the information asked for on the form attached at the end of this letter; be sure to leave your phone number;**

**3) via phone 989.465.6060**

All information will be kept confidential. If all information is not included, it may delay the process.

* + Food delivery/pick-up will be via Coleman Schools/Chartwells’ Food Service bus delivery to homes that typically have bus routes **or** family drive-thru pick-up at any 1 of 4 satellite sites in Coleman on the following dates. Those pre-registering must choose the method they will use:
    - 1) Monday & Tuesday, March 23rd and 24th to receive breakfast and/or lunch for children for March 25th through March 31st;
    - 2) Monday & Tuesday, March 30th and 31st to receive breakfast and/or lunch for children for April 1st through April 5th
* **School Closure-** School is currently closed by Executive Order of Governor Whitmer from March 16th through April 5th. No students are allowed on campus and no activities or events, school or community related unless approved by the Superintendent’s Office. Only essential staff members, as determined by the Superintendent, are on campus and all office are closed.
* **Supporting Students or Staff-** I have received contacts from area agencies and community members wishing to help support students or staff at this time. If this is your desire, please send an email or phone call to [jmccormack@colemanschools.net](mailto:jmccormack@colemanschools.net) or 989.465.6060 and leave your phone number for a call back.
* **Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)-** Any meetings that were previously set up with parents/guardians to review a student’s IEP are postponed until further notice. Upon return to school, we will contact you with further information.
* **Seniors-** My heart goes out right now to all of our students, but especially our seniors, who I know are thinking about the uncertainty of their Senior Year. Know that this is a concern for myself and all the leaders around the State as we talk and plan.
* **Co-Op/Work Study students-** These students should plan to continue working at their jobs unless their employer would like to suspend the work until the school closure is over. Students do not have to fill out timesheets for the school during this time.
* **Student School Work-** Those students who are Dual Enrolled through Delta College should continue to do their coursework online. Delta has indicated this will continue until April 10th. Some of our teachers were able to send supplemental work home with students on Friday, but with the short timeline, this did not go to all students. This is supplemental work (NOT REQUIRED) and hopefully will give your child some things to do during this time. An “Educational and Entertaining Resources” list for students in grades K-12 was created and is posted on the website at [www.colemanschools.net](http://www.colemanschools.net) under the “For Parents/Community” tab. Several items have already been added to social media this week. We will continue to revise and add to it.
* **Resources-** I have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from local agencies to help our families and District through this time. I am compiling a list of those resources that will be listed at [www.colemanschools.net](http://www.colemanschools.net) under the “For Parents/Community” tab and on social media. This includes support for food, daycare information. Additionally, groups like the Midland Area Community Foundation are looking to support parents who both work and now have children at home. I hope these links and resources will be beneficial to you.
* **District Perception Survey-** Since many will have some time the next few weeks, please take this time to complete the paper survey that came home to parents recently or by going to <http://www.advanc-ed.org/survey/public/3656076>. Community Members can complete a survey at <http://www.advanc-ed.org/survey/public/1991512>. The information gained through these surveys helps us to know what we are doing well and those areas where we can work to improve. Please know that I read through all of this information and data to move us forward in a positive way. We appreciate your input and have extended the timeline from March 27th to April 10th for feedback.
* **Census-** While you have the chance, please take a few minutes to fill out Census 2020 at [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov); you can respond online, by phone or by mail. This Census is done every 10 years and provides funding based on count of every individual, including children, in your home. For every person who is counted, $1800 per year (or $18,000 over 10 years) is gained for your community to fund Title, Food and other programming for schools that supports all students in our district, housing programs and more. Local government officials use the census to ensure public safety and plan for schools and hospitals; developers and city planners use the data to plan new homes and improve neighborhoods.
* **Forgiven Days-** The question has been asked if these days will be Forgiven by the State or Michigan Department of Education. These days are occurring during a Governor ordered “state of emergency”. As of Tuesday afternoon, the Michigan legislature voted on a COVID-19 budget supplemental without taking action to forgive the days and hours of instruction lost to the current mandatory school closure. The House and Senate both adjourned until March 25th, so this uncertainty will last at least that long. If you have an opinion, please contact your Representatives of the House and Senate. Please plan at this time that there ***may*** be additional days at the end of the school year and plan your summer vacations accordingly.
* **Returning to School/Work-** When it is time to return to school/work, please know that we will be in touch with our own staff to ensure their health and well-being and consulting with the Health Department should any questions arise. We will also be vigilant in monitoring students at that time and are excited to see all of our kids and staff back here with us as quickly as possible.

Take care of your families, friends and self. Stay tuned for other information; I will be in touch.

Sincerely,

Jennifer McCormack, Superintendent

***#Coleman #growingforthefuture #preferreddistrict #education #safetyfirst #CometPride***

**\*PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY\***

**Parent/Guardian Name:**

**Children’s Names and Grades (please list all children under 18, or if they have an IEP, up to age 26) that you are requesting breakfast/lunches for in your household. Children do not have to be Coleman Community Schools students and this is free for ALL students:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Child’s Name** | **Child’s Grade/Teacher** | **Requested # of Breakfasts per week (up to 7 per child)** | **Requested # of Lunches per week (up to 7 per child)** | **Requesting food for all 3 weeks? Yes/No If no, which weeks above DO you want the food?** |
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**Contact Phone and Email:**

**Is it ok for us to send a text if we have questions?:**

**There will be 2 deliveries/pick-ups, 1 for each week. Please choose only 1 method of delivery or drive-thru/pick up below. This is where your food will be at the days/times indicated:**

\_\_\_\_School bus delivery to my home (only for those who typically have bus routes). Plan for deliveries to follow the same route as they would for leaving on a ½ day of school starting at 11:30 a.m. Please recognize the routes may take longer or less time depending on the delivery speed and number of people requesting. We will not deliver if there is not someone home (delivery to children at the door is acceptable). If you can meet the bus at drop-off that will help the process move smoothly, but we understand if you cannot.

\_\_\_\_At Coleman High School side door off of staff parking, March 24 & 31 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_Community of Christ Church, 23 & 30 from 12-2:00 p.m. or Mar. 24 & 31 from 4-6:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_Coleman Wesleyan Church, Mar. 23 & 30 from 1-3:00 p.m. or Mar. 24 & 31 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

\_\_\_\_Faith United Methodist Church, Mar. 23 & 30 from 2-4:00 p.m. or Mar. 24 & 31 from 5-7:00 p.m.