



Montabella Community Schools

March 23, 2020

Dear Montabella Families:

This is a unique and challenging time that we are all facing. Along with each of you we also are trying to adjust to the ever changing situation. The most important thing during this time is the health and safety of everyone. The Governor issued an executive order today for all Michiganans to Stay at Home until April 13. This means that the school closure has been extended an additional week.

Here are a few updates that we wanted to make everyone aware of:

School Days -At this point these days are similar to snow days. We were fortunate not to have a bunch of snow days prior to this situation, the current closure has us losing 14 school days. Missing that many days is not unheard of, however all of them at once is certainly a little odd. We are still waiting for the legislators to make a decision on whether these days will need to be made up. I would anticipate with this national and global issue that these days will be forgiven. The Michigan Department of Education has communicated that online learning will not count as instructional time and days. This means that we can not count online learning the same as a day of school physically taking place.

Grades - It is still too soon for a determination to be made on grades, credits and grade advancement. We need to know when we will be returning to school and whether days will be required to be made up in order to make some of these decisions. We understand the uncertainty and would wish we had more answers for you. We can say that any days that are forgiven, content covered during that time will not be required. Similarly to years when we have lots of snow days we make adjustments to the content that we are able to cover in a course.

Resources - We have been posting resources on social media and our website. The home page of our website (www.montabella.com) now shows resources separated into different categories. Resources for kids, community resources and a section on

communication as well. Letters that have been sent out from the school and from the health department related to the COVID-19 situation are also available on that resource section.

Food - We will continue to distribute food twice a week to the drop off locations, this is considered an essential operation. This food is free for all children. We are working on extending the access of food through April 15. We will communicate that once a plan can be finalized. The delivery times are all listed on our website, www.montabella.com.

Survey - We will be sending out a survey in the coming days to collect information about technology. The purpose would be so that we have information about families that lack access. We do not anticipate moving to full online instruction however there are some resources that would be beneficial for students and we want all students to have access to the same resources.

Teachers and Staff - These individuals can be contacted through email if you have a specific question that you wish to have answered. We are taking the order to close schools seriously and have therefore limited the access to staff so they currently do not have access to the buildings which means they might not be able to access all the resources that they typically do if those are housed in their classroom or on their computers at school.

I know there are still a number of questions that many of you have that unfortunately we don't have answers to at this time. The administration at Montabella is meeting virtually and discussing potential ideas in anticipation of any additional closures. This is a very stressful time for everyone and health and safety needs to come first before education at this time. Please make sure to ensure your mental and physical needs are being addressed first. If you need assistance with any essential needs please feel free to reach out to myself or either of our building principals and we will assist in any way that we can to help make sure that everyone has their essential needs met.

Together we will get through this.

Sincerely,

Shelly Millis