



# MARSHALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*A Rich Tradition of Excellence*

April 2, 2020

Dear Marshall Families and Staff:

This morning, Governor Whitmer announced that the closure of school buildings would extend until the end of this school year. As the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise in our state, it is an understandable step we must take to keep everyone safe. However, the reality that we will not be able to convene our students and teachers in-person until the next school year is devastating news for all of us.

Schools in Michigan will be tasked with the enormous responsibility to continue education using a different model. For the remainder of the year, Marshall Public Schools will be turning to “distance learning.”

Distance learning is not a “one size fits all” approach for our students. MPS understands every family situation is different and requires different solutions. During the first closure period, our staff realized through attempts to contact students and responses to surveys that this is a monumental undertaking. We have, however, been working hard to put supports in place to reach all students.

April 6th-10th is spring break and a time for all of us to take a breath, reflect, and enjoy time with family. Beginning April 13th, we ask families to continue to engage in the Online Educational Resources already provided. During this week, our teachers, staff and administrators will continue our work in the design of a distance learning platform for educating every student in our district. Expect that a more formalized distance learning opportunity will be shared shortly thereafter. You will likely be receiving more requests for information during this time to coordinate the supports that are required to meet individual needs. Our target now is to implement the distance learning model of instruction by April 20, 2020. We also will follow the existing school calendar regarding days of instruction. There will undoubtedly be bumps along the road, but we remain committed to providing the best possible education to the students we serve.

Meeting our student’s social and emotional learning needs will be crucial over the next few months, and will be a large part of our distance learning model as well. Please continue to be patient as we progress in our planning and readiness. We look forward to working in partnership with you to accept this challenge.

Our thoughts are with our students and families, and all of those in our organization. Stay home, stay safe and stay healthy.

Dr. Randy Davis