

Dear Parents and Students

The situation our nation is in right now, with relation to the virus, has never happened in our history. However, we have had nation-wide tragedies including the Spanish Flu, the Great Depression and World War II. Those three events required much sacrifice from all our citizens. But we as a country came out of those situations even stronger than before. It took a great amount of patience, courage, belief and hope. This generation is now facing a situation similar. It too requires much sacrifice. It requires families to remain strong and diligent as the month of April and perhaps May will bring even more news of rapid increases in cases, sickness and even fatalities. Many of those scenarios can be prevented by following the guidance of our local, and state government.

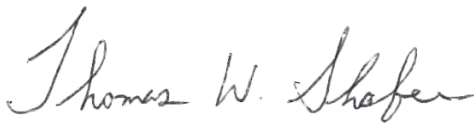
Other secondary issues have begun to happen as the virus progresses. Those I am very concerned about. Parents and children will be getting very frustrated having to stay at home daily. This will cause much frustration and anxiety. Many of you are feeling those now. Temporary loss of jobs has also added stress to families. Many young people have never faced these conditions. Because of that, we have posted several links to mental health contacts if someone in your family needs assistance.

It is of the utmost importance to stay busy and focused during these times. An education is still the most important attribute a person can carry into the future, despite hardships. Our staff has worked very hard to set up websites for instruction and for grading returned work. We are putting together packets of work for those families without computer access. These can be picked up outside the school doors and returned the same way. However, only about half of our students are working and completing assignments. We simply cannot have this. Your students will regress and not be prepared for an advanced grade next year, if attention is not placed on their academic effort right now. The governor has closed school until May 1. That will result in six weeks of school missed, which is a significant amount of time in a student's development. We do not know if after May 1, we will return. Please make a solid effort to make sure your students are working on their assignments and doing their best.

RBeginning April 7th, we will offer lunches twice a week. Our staff has been in contact with all our family's and some have indicated they need lunches, even though TPS has set up 8 sites. Those families who have responded to our survey questions and have indicated they need lunches, were all counted. Lunches will be made available from 10-11 am every Tuesday and Thursday until school reopens. If we do not re open, we will serve lunches until the end of May. If your family is using the 8 designated TPS sites, we encourage you to continue to do so. Our staff will be at the main doors only, to hand out lunches beginning April 7. We will need the names of each student who is getting a lunch every day. A staff member will be available to assist with this. We know there will be some growing pains with this process, but The Maritime Academy of Toledo cares deeply about its students. We ask for your patience during this process. The dates for the lunches will be as follows: April 7 and 9, April 14 and 16, April 21 and 23, April 28 and April 30.

Each of us is different as we approach hardships. I believe, the Science and the Medicine in the Untied States is the best in the world. Medicines are being created, testing practices are really improving and before long, a cure will be found. That is my hope and it is what I believe every day. This virus will forever change our society and I believe it will be for the good of all of us. Please take care of your families and each other, promote a strong education and stay positive.

Tom Shafer

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas W. Shafer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name "Tom Shafer".

Superintendent