

Parents and Guardians:

As part of the ongoing efforts to slow the spread of the COVID-19 in our community, North Harrison Community Schools will remain closed after Spring Break. Governor Holcomb has directed that all schools stay closed through May 1<sup>st</sup>. All ILEARN, IREAD and ISTEP state tests have been cancelled as well. As a school community we cannot assume that we will return at that point and must be prepared to move forward.

While our buildings will be closed, this does not mean that learning has to stop for our students. We intend to create Continuous Learning Plans for our students as we make our way through these uncharted waters. These plans will be a combination of ELearning, teacher created packets, Project Based Learning, and various on-line resources. None of this is perfect. None of this is ideal. However, this is our new reality for the moment. Teachers will be collecting grades. Students will be receiving credit for their work. Our district plan is to create 3 days of Continuous Learning per week. This will allow students to work at their own pace and lessen the direct impact on families in any single day. We will use waiver days for the two remaining days each week.

Additional information will be coming via School Messenger and Harmony. It is important that your contact information with the school is accurate and up to date. Please contact your school's office to update that information if needed.

Principals and teachers will be communicating with parents and students regarding their plans going forward and what this will look like at each grade level. As a district, we had just begun dipping our toes into ELearning. Now we are diving into the deep end! We know there will be challenges, questions, and concerns. Do not hesitate to contact your child's school if you have any questions. As a school community, we are all in this together and will work diligently to make it work for everyone.

We were very pleased with the results of our recent technology survey. We are approaching 90% connectivity in our district. While that is terrific, that means 1 in 10 will need some type of additional support. Public Wifi Access will be available at Morgan and on the main campus. The best spots are behind the gym at Morgan; next to the fieldhouse at the Middle School; by the front office at the high school; and near the car rider pick up location at NHE. The public library also has wifi available in their parking lots.

We will continue with our Grab and Go meal program at Morgan after spring break. This program starts up again March 30. We will send out the sign up form in the coming days. You will need to sign up each week. It is important that you sign up in advance so that we know how much to prepare. We have 600 students signed up for today's distribution. That equals 4800 meals that need to be prepared, packaged, and refrigerated in advance. I would like to praise the efforts of our food service personnel as they have worked non-stop to pull all of this together. It has sort of been like building a plane while you are flying it! You can email [kchinn@nhcs.k12.in.us](mailto:kchinn@nhcs.k12.in.us) with questions regarding our Grab and Go program. I would also like to praise our custodial and maintenance staff as they have deeply cleaned, disinfected, and sanitized in preparation for the eventual return of our students and staff.

As a school community, we have already seen many, many people come forward to volunteer and offer their services. This show of community support has been heartwarming. We know that as a community we will pull through this and be stronger for it. We also know that this is very disruptive to all of our families. We appreciate all of the kind comments that we have received and your continued support.

Together we will work through these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lance Richards

Superintendent

