

Huron School District

32044 Huron River Drive
New Boston, Michigan 48164
(734) 782-2441
(734) 782-0338 – Fax



Completely Committed to Kids

Donovan Rowe, Superintendent
Jill Sauve, Business Manager
Steven Hudock, Curriculum Director

November 16, 2020

Dear Huron Families,

I hope this communication finds you and your families, safe, healthy, and well. I wanted to take a moment to provide information and direction pertaining to the Governor's announcement suspending grades 9-12 In-Person Instruction, as well as the Huron School District Instructional Programming during the "pause" period for all grade levels.

In Huron, we have worked together in order to provide face-to-face and remote learning options for students during the 2020-2021 school year. In addition, we established health, safety, and cleaning protocols, which have helped us to provide our students, parents, and staff with the safest and most purposeful learning environment possible. Our mitigation protocols have been successful, and we are proud of how our students, staff, parents, and community have pulled together during this time. I am grateful to our educational community, parents, students, and staff. I would like to take this moment to say "Thank you" for the support, patience, and trust that you have shown. It means a lot to me, and I really appreciate it.

As we approached this school year, we had an understanding that we would have to be flexible and intentional about our communications and instructional programming. We knew that the possibility was there that we may have to pause our face-to-face instruction in a specific building, or even the whole district, if the need arose. We also anticipated that the time may come when the region was forced to move backwards in our COVID progress.

As you may have already heard, on Sunday, November 15, 2020, the Governor and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced a suspension of all in-person activities for students in grades 9-12. This includes a suspension of all extra-curricular activities and athletics for all grade levels.

Unfortunately, the MDHHS order requires the Huron School District to pause our face-to-face instruction in grades 9-12 for the next 3 weeks. The restrictions are in place starting Wednesday, November 18, 2020 and will run through Tuesday, December 8 (3 weeks). This means that the last day of in-person instruction for Huron High School students will be Tuesday, November 17, 2020. In addition, the Huron School District is pausing in-person instruction for grades K-8 for 2 weeks, starting on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 and running through Wednesday, December 2. This means that the last day of in-person instruction for students in grades K-8 will be Tuesday, November 17, 2020.

Simply put, the number of positive cases and quarantined staff and students has pushed our staffing and classroom coverage to the limit, making it difficult to sustain our face-to-face instructional model with our available staff. This rapid increase in positive cases has been correlated with increased activity outside of schools (For example: parties, travel sports, and other activities) and increased prevalence of the COVID-19 virus within our community (positive parents, grandparents, and siblings.) The Huron School District's strong mitigation strategies have made it possible for our district to operate for a full 12 weeks of school with virtually no interruption. As we all have undoubtedly realized throughout 2020, the impacts and changes to our daily lives as a result of this pandemic are often determined by many more factors than our own personal preference and choices. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts and desire to remain in-person, we have always known that the impact of COVID-19 on our community would determine our district's ability to maintain our current in-person learning program option.

As a result, the Huron School District will be suspending all in-person learning in all grades and transitioning all district classrooms to remote learning, beginning on Wednesday, November 18, 2020. Grades K-8 will return to in-person learning beginning on Thursday, December 3, 2020. Grades 9-12 will return to in-person learning on Thursday, December 10, 2020. Additionally, all extracurricular activities and athletics will also be suspended until December 10, 2020.

As the district engages in a pause of in person learning, specific information related to remote learning and detailed, program-related information will be shared through individual school building communications. You can expect to receive more information from building principals on Tuesday, November 17, 2020. Athletic and extra-curricular communications will be coming from coaches and club sponsors this week pertaining to suspension of individual team activities.

It is important to understand that we have been preparing since June of 2020 for this possibility. Our teachers, support staff, and instructional staff are making final adjustments for remote learning at the beginning of trimester 2. During this period, **students will continue to learn remotely 5 days per week, with synchronous instruction every day.** We will continue to use our Google Classroom platform to deliver instruction and to interact with students and classes. Below, you will find information related to your student's grade level. In addition to this information, your student's building principal and teacher(s) will be reaching out to you with more specific, grade level and/or classroom information.

Remote Learning During the In-Person Pause Period:

Brown and Miller Elementary Schools (Grades K-5):

- During the 2 week pause period, students and teachers will follow set scheduled times for each class meeting.
- Teachers and students will continue to use Google Classroom Links that have been established for "Remote Wednesday" instruction. Students will use these links to join their remote classes each day, according to the remote learning schedule that will be sent to you on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 from your building Principal and classroom Teacher.
- More information and details will be sent from Mrs. Gilbert and Mrs. Fisher pertaining to the instructional schedules at Brown and Miller Elementary Schools on Tuesday, November 17, 2020.

Renton Jr. High School (Grades 6-8)

- For the remainder of Trimester 1 (through Friday, November 20, 2020), students and teachers will follow set scheduled times for each class meeting, using the current instructional schedule.
- For Trimester 2 (starting Monday, November 23, 2020), teachers will post Google Classroom Links for students to join their remote classes for trimester 2 courses.
- More information and details will be sent from Mr. Mrocko pertaining to the instructional schedule at Renton.

Huron High School:

- For the remainder of Trimester 1 (through Friday, November 20, 2020), students and teachers will follow set scheduled times for each class meeting, using the current instructional schedule.
- For Trimester 2 (starting Monday, November 23, 2020), teachers will post Google Classroom Links for students to join their remote classes for trimester 2 courses. Students will continue to stream their classes during the in-person pause period.
- More information and details will be sent from Ms. O'Brien pertaining to the instructional schedule at Huron High School.

District Food Service:

District Food Service will be transitioning to a pick-up service model similar to how it operated during the spring closure. Pick up will take place on Mondays and Thursdays in the Huron High School bus loop from 1:00-3:00 on the following dates:

- *Monday, November 23, 2020*
- *Monday, November 30, 2020*
- *Thursday, December 3, 2020*
- *Monday, December 7, 2020*

Technology Support:

All students should have a device through which they can connect with their teachers during synchronous classroom learning every day. If you experience technological or connectivity issues, please contact your building's front office. More information pertaining to technological support will be coming from your building principal as part of the building level communication.

A tremendous amount of planning and preparation has taken place in order to design a flexible learning plan that allows us to remain nimble, while offering an instructional delivery system that ensures student success. Thank you for your support, patience, and understanding during this time.

Sincerely,



Donovan Rowe

Superintendent of Schools

Huron School District