

Bark River - Harris Schools

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April 2, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This morning, Governor Whitmer made the official announcement that our schools will be closed for the remainder of the school year. Though there are many details and questions currently left unanswered, we do know that a form of 'remote learning' has been mandated by our legislation and it is understood that this remote learning could begin as soon as April 13th. We have been planning for this outcome, but we still have more work to do. In the days to come, superintendents, principals, and teacher leaders will be meeting virtually to finalize our 'remote learning' plans. What we do know is that our plans will be a blended approach of on-line learning (using Google Classroom) when appropriate and available, as well as packets sent home. Additionally, we know that our teachers are amazing and will be working very hard, like always, to provide appropriate support and nurturing during these unprecedented times.

As previously noted, BRH and the entire DSISD has been planning for this outcome. Our plan is to closely evaluate the survey data. Our school leaders (superintendents and principals) will be meeting virtually throughout the rest of the week and reviewing the official Executive Order and MDE Guidance for Remote Learning. We will be meeting with the teacher leaders that have been selected on Monday and will be working on the continuous learning plan. During this time, we will begin to design what that learning will look like (blended learning approach); however, the expectations will be quite different than what we've been accustomed to.

In closing, with each passing day, our team of educators misses your children more than words can describe. We have enjoyed seeing many of the children's pictures on Facebook and we feel so fortunate to have the support of such an amazing community. The future will be difficult for us all, but we will get through this – together. As we continue to flesh out the remote learning plan, you should expect to hear directly from school personnel (either via phone call, Dojo, or email). We want to make sure to touch base with every one of our families to ensure we provide the resources and support you need.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Lockwood'.

Jason Lockwood, Ed.S
Bark River-Harris Superintendent.