



Livingston PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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March 12, 2020

Dear Livingston Public Schools Community,

We have worked hard over the past several months, in the face of a challenging situation, to keep our schools as healthy and safe as possible. While, as of today, we continue to have no known cases of Coronavirus in Livingston, we know through our health professionals and officials that gathering together in groups can perpetuate the spread of the virus. As of today, we have received a great deal of information about the importance of taking significant measures now, before the virus spreads further, to minimize the spread of the virus.

In consultation with the Department of Health and other local officials, we have decided, in order to mitigate the fast spread of the Coronavirus in our broader community, that Livingston Public Schools will initiate our Remote Learning Plan (RLP). The plan will consist of the following:

Thursday, March 12, 2020 - As of today, all sports scrimmages have been cancelled. Athletic practices will continue to be held through tomorrow (3/13). After tomorrow (3/13), all athletic practices and events will not be held until school is fully back in session. Shrek the Musical, scheduled to be held this weekend at Livingston High School, and the Heritage Middle School parent orientation program scheduled for tonight, have both been postponed.

Friday, March 13, 2020 - Livingston Public Schools will be open for an Early Dismissal Day. Students will come in on time and follow the Early Dismissal Schedule. Early Dismissal Schedules can be found on our website by clicking the following link, <https://www.livingston.org/Page/11>. This will give students a chance to touch base with their teachers, gather materials, and even practice for remote learning. We are holding a single session day, so that principals can meet one more time with teachers, and teachers can make final preparations for remote learning, which will begin the following Monday (3/16).

Monday March 16, 2020 - Friday, March 27, 2020 - Livingston Public Schools facilities will be closed and all extracurricular, athletic, and social activities will not be held. Remote Learning will take place each weekday beginning on March 16th. Student expectations for remote

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learning were shared in a letter yesterday, and all information is available on our website by clicking the following link, <https://www.livingston.org/lps-covid19> . We have been assured that each remote learning day will count as a day of school for the 2019-2020 school year.

Please know that we take this decision to close school with the utmost seriousness. This plan was not reached lightly or easily. The health and safety of our students and staff have to come first, and we believe this plan does just that. In light of the potential health risks, we felt strongly that we need to be proactive and responsive in light of the emerging information. **If we waited for known cases, or a spread through our schools, we certainly would look back with regret. We believe this is the best time to put this procedure in place.**

During our Remote Learning period, I will be sure to continue to communicate with the community with any updates. You will also hear from our individual school administrators, counselors, and other Livingston educators, throughout the Remote Learning experience. We all hope that the members of our community remain in good health and that we are able to be together again in our schools as soon as we can.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Block, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools