



Superintendent's Office

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April 14, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians-

THANK YOU once again for your continued support and collaboration during this complex and difficult time. I am honored to be part of this District and this community; our students, parents, staff, and community have risen to this challenge and we will no doubt be a better organization and community when this pandemic finally comes to a conclusion.

I have intentionally drawn back a bit on District-wide communications to give you a little "breathing room" in light of the increased communication coming your way from buildings, teachers, and other staff. With that said, there has been some recent action by the Board of Education that I wanted to provide you an update on (among other things). Last night, April 13, 2020, the Board of Education adopted a resolution requesting a waiver from the "hours of instruction" requirement outlined in state statute. This statute requires the District to make up missed school days due to closures, which are most often caused by inclement weather. In fact, if you recall last year's atypical eight days of closure due to inclement weather, you also recall the fact that we had to make up time by extending the day a bit, converting some professional development days to student contact days, and adding instructional time to the end of the year. It is because of the hours of instruction statutory requirement that all of these maneuvers to make up time had to occur. Due to the unprecedented nature of this COVID-19 pandemic which has caused the need for lengthy state-wide school closures, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) took steps to streamline the instructional hour waiver-granting process and has signaled their intent to grant ALL waivers requested. Since our Board of Education went ahead and adopted the resolution at their meeting held yesterday, we have already taken the necessary steps to apply for our District to have the hours of instruction requirement waived for the 2019-20 school year.

So... What does that mean to you as parents and your child(ren)? First and foremost, it means that we will NOT have to make up any of the days (and time) missed due to the closures as a result of this pandemic. Second, it means that students in grades 4K-8 will NOT be required to repeat grade levels or classes missed due to the ongoing closure. It is worth pointing out that our high school students are handled in a different fashion due to State requirements around graduation and post-secondary educational institution expectations; however, details regarding the approach for both Lincoln High School and River Cities High School will be forthcoming to both students and parents from those specific schools in the future. Further communication regarding monitoring progress and what you will "see" in Skyward Family Access will be forthcoming from our elementary buildings as well. WRAMS students and parents have already heard about their approach in a prior communication.

Another question I hear quite frequently is, "When are kids going to be able to get back to school?" The current order from the Governor has our schools closed until at least April 24; I would not be surprised if we hear that the closure is extended into May at some point in the near future. If the Governor's order is extended, we will communicate that with our families; however, we intend to continue to provide educational opportunities and supports to our families and the community through the end of the school year (if necessary) as we are doing currently. We are also ready to get back to "regular" school whenever we get the go-ahead from the State including the Department of Health. Please know that the expectation for our students in grades preK-8 is to do what they (or you as parents) can; our goal is not to add to the stress of an already stressful circumstance... Our goal is to provide families with opportunities to remain engaged with educational materials as long as possible; however, with the hours of instruction waiver outlined above, there cannot be the "normal" accountability associated with school and classes.

Some of you may be wondering or have some concerns about what this may mean for your child(ren) as they return to school in the fall (should this closure last through the end of this academic year). Rest assured that teachers will meet students where they are; we will work hard to help every student get to where they need to be academically. Our staff are

acutely cognizant of this and I can tell you that like me, they want every single child to succeed and reach their utmost potential. Our current primary focus is on the mental health and well-being of our students and their families at this time.

A final question that remains is in regard to summer school. At this time, it is too early to tell what we may or may not be doing in June; as is the case with our current circumstance, we will proceed according to what the Department of Public Instruction as well as the Department of Health recommends. There will be more on summer school in a future communication.

On another note, our Food Service Department is encouraging any family that has had a decrease in their household income to apply for Free or Reduced Priced Meals through [Skyward Family Access](#). Although these applications are not required for the meals that are currently available during the shutdown, the approval of a Free/Reduced Application would be valid for the rest of this school year and through mid-October of the 2020-2021 school year. For more information on submitting an online application or sending in a paper application, you can visit our [Food Services Webpage](#). Please also note that if anyone in your household applies and qualifies for [Food Share Benefits](#), that will automatically qualify all children for free meals once school is back in session, through mid-October. If you have any questions about the Free/Reduced Priced Meals Program, please call the Food Services office at 715-424-6703, ext. 2.

I also want to make you aware that we have a supply of student desks which we've had in storage for a while, and they are free and available for you to obtain for your child(ren) to utilize in your home if it would help to set up a dedicated space for them to perform their studies. The desks are yours to keep once you obtain them, so you may find them helpful to have in your home even after this Safer at Home order is lifted. A photo of the style of desk available is included in this document to help you evaluate whether or not this would be helpful for your child(ren). If you would like a desk (or more than one desk), please contact Jay at 715-424-6718, ext. 4 or by email at jay.hodgson@wrps.net to make those arrangements.

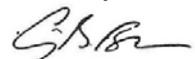
Lastly, you are likely aware that the U.S. Census Bureau is conducting the 2020 Census which ultimately impacts the level of resources available to communities. Your help in completing the Census will ensure that our community is accurately and completely counted, which could be crucial in the future as we move beyond this pandemic. If you received the invitation to participate by mail using your 10-digit code, please take the time to review the invite and participate. I've also included a document which further explains how you can take care of this important task (if you haven't already done so), or you can learn more by going to <https://2020census.gov>.

I want to wrap up by once again *thanking you for your continued support* - we are all in this together and we will get through this together.

This community is **outstanding!** This is a difficult circumstance and it is quite clear that it will not define who we are or "how" we are.

As always, feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

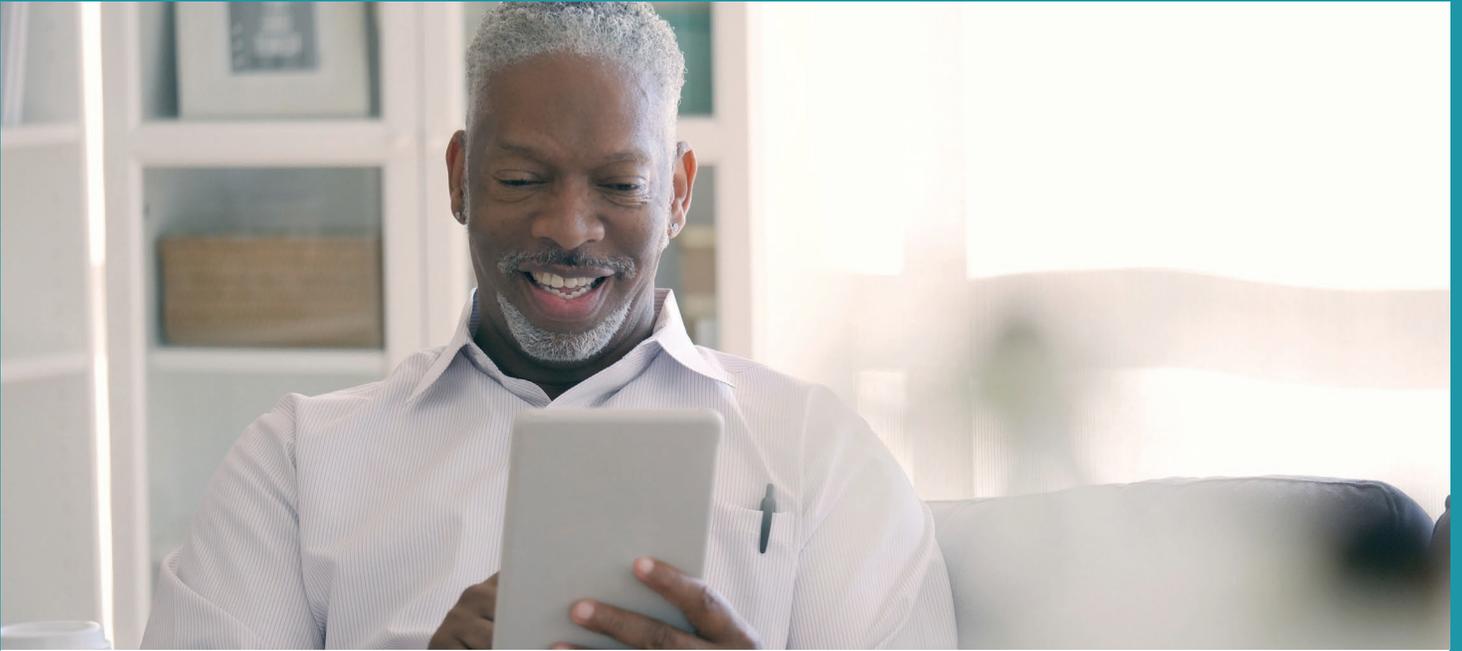


Craig G. Broeren
Superintendent

DESKS AVAILABLE THROUGH WRPS CENTRAL STORAGE



**Interested? If you would like a desk (or more than one desk),
please contact Jay at 715-424-6718, ext. 4 or by email at
jay.hodgson@wrps.net to make arrangements to obtain a desk(s).**



Respond to the 2020 Census online.

The 2020 Census marks the first time you will be invited to respond online—even on your mobile device. You can respond by phone or mail—they're secure, too—but going online is a great option, because it is:

Convenient

You can respond from anywhere, at any time, using a mobile phone, tablet, laptop, or desktop computer. You just need to be connected to the internet.

Easy

When you respond online, the website will guide you through each question on the 2020 Census and provide more information if you need it. The census form will be available in English and 12 additional languages. Videos and guides to the form will be available in 59 languages.

Secure

All responses submitted online are encrypted to protect personal privacy. Once responses are received, they are no longer online.

How to respond online: as easy as 1-2-3

1. In March 2020, your household will receive an invitation in the mail to respond online.
2. Visit 2020census.gov to access and complete the census questionnaire.
3. You're done!

For more information, visit:

2020CENSUS.GOV

D-OP-GP-EN-421

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