

# New Haven Community Schools

Barbara VanSweden  
SUPERINTENDENT

## SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

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March 20, 2020

Dear NHCS Families and Friends,

Thank you for your ongoing partnership as we continue to navigate these unprecedented times in our state and country. It was just eight days ago that we learned about school closures and immediately began to plan for at-home learning and food distribution to our community. The world has suddenly changed and we are all in the midst of developing a new routine.

As a result of our staff, families and friends joining together, we will continue to support each other through these challenging times. I will continue to provide updates and appreciate the feedback from our community. Below are a few brief updates:

### **At Home Learning**

Our staff has developed at-home learning plans for all students. They will continue to be updated each week so continue to check our website under the tab for your school. Your child's teacher(s) will contact their students every week via email or Google classroom. Please don't hesitate to email a teacher if you have questions or concerns. It is critical that we continue to engage our students in learning during the school closure.

Principals and assistant principals are also continuing to communicate with each other this week. Each school staff participated in a virtual meeting to keep ourselves engaged in the educational process. The virtual meetings will continue throughout the school closure.

### **Healthy Mind, Healthy Body**

We are launching a new section of information for our families on our website today. It is important that we consider the mental health of our children during this disruption in their routine. Additional resources will be added to Healthy Mind, Healthy Body as they are received by staff.

### **FREE Healthy Meals for Kids**

Our distribution of breakfast and lunch packets for individuals 18 years and younger began this week and will continue on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. School buses will follow bus routes through the community and will stop at the bus stops. Buses start at 9:00 and complete their routes by 10:15. Packets are available for pick-up at New Haven Elementary at 9:30. I am very appreciative of the cooperative effort between our transportation and food service departments and our volunteer staff.

**NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION.** It is the policy of New Haven Community Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, gender, age, disability, height, weight or marital status in its programs, services, activities, or employment. Inquiries related to nondiscrimination policies should be directed to: New Haven Community Schools and Administrative Offices, 30375 Clark St., New Haven, MI 48048, and (586) 749-5123. Nondiscrimination inquiries related to disability should be directed to: Section 504 Coordinator, Director for Special Education, (586) 749-5123.

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### **Enhanced Cleaning**

Our custodial staff has been busy by thoroughly cleaning and sanitizing our schools and district facilities. They have been provided with specific instructions for cleaning/disinfecting educational environments.

### **Bond Projects**

Schools might be closed but there is work being done to get a jump start on summer bond projects. Cabling for enhanced security and technology is being pulled in the Administration Building. Interactive panels are being installed in classrooms and flexible environments at New Haven Elementary. The renovation of the band room has also begun at New Haven High School. Projects will continue throughout the school closure as a result of the cooperative relationship we have with our design/construction partners.

### **Census 2020**

The U.S. Census Bureau has begun mailing letters to individual addresses. It is very important that you respond by providing basic information about all adults, children and babies living or staying at your address. The letter provides a Census ID and provides the website for you to complete the information. Your response is kept confidential. If you need help completing the Census, please call toll-free 1-844-330-2020.

The New Haven area was unrepresented during the last Census so please make sure you complete the information by April 1.

Thank you for your patience and understanding throughout these challenging times. Your feedback is appreciated and your questions will continue to be answered as soon as possible.

Together we are kinder...Together we are smarter...Together we are ROCKET STRONG!

Barbara VanSweden, Superintendent  
New Haven Community Schools

Sincerely,

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Barbara VanSweden, Superintendent

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