



## SOUTH HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

554 Green Street  
South Haven, MI 49090

Phone: (269) 637-0500  
Fax: (269) 637-3025

April 2, 2020

Dear SHPS Families:

This morning, Governor Whitmer announced an extension to the state-issued closure of school to last throughout the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. While this means we will not finish the year in person, it does not mean that school is cancelled. We will be transitioning to an online platform to service our kids for the remainder of the school year. Although this is the last thing we imagined or wanted for our kids and staff this year, we have been preparing a plan in the event distance learning became necessary. Final details and logistics are being finalized and will be presented to families in the coming weeks as we work with the Van Buren ISD and Michigan Department of Education for their approval. We will have additional information the week of April 13th.

Additional components of the executive order include:

- The continued closure of school buildings to students for the remainder of the school year
- The advancement of students to the next grade level for the 2020-21 school year and the graduation of seniors as deemed appropriate by the school district.
- The suspension of the 3rd Grade Reading Law for the 2019-20 school year
- SAT testing for this year's juniors in the fall of 2020 at the State's expense
- The continuation of the breakfast and lunch programs in place for school families
- The development of a distance learning plan to be submitted to the ISD for approval by April 28, 2020, and then filed with MDE.
- Students will not be penalized for not being able to participate in the district's learning plan

While the information above is helpful, there are still questions that I, and some of you, may have - questions about the graduation ceremony for seniors, the hurdle of internet accessibility across our district, and what teaching and learning will look like on this new platform. Some of these answers can only come in time with more guidelines and conversations between our legislators, the Michigan Department of Education and our medical professionals. Others, we will tackle together as we navigate these uncharted waters. It is our intention to preserve as many traditions and milestones for our seniors as possible while adhering to best practices to keep our school family safe.

Regardless, I know that this news comes as disappointing and heartbreaking to our staff and students. I recognize that there is anxiety surrounding what this shift in learning means for your child and their education. Please know that you are not alone. Every child across the state is in the same position and our staff at SHPS is highly capable, committed, and passionate about your child's learning. There is nothing we want more than to provide each of our students with the education and experience they deserve despite the obstacles that we face. We ask that we

come together, as a school community, to support our students in what is not only an uncertain and stressful situation, but also a major disruption and disappointment academically and emotionally for our kids and staff.

As difficult and challenging as these past few weeks have been, protecting the health and well-being of our students and school families while keeping students engaged and connected with their education has been at the forefront of everyone's minds and hearts. Please continue to contact central office (269) 637-0500 with questions and look for additional correspondence soon.

Sincerely,

Kevin Schooley  
Superintendent