

Good afternoon parents, this is Vaughn White, Superintendent of Hesperia Community Schools with a brief message.

Parents, Governor Whitmer today declared that schools will be closed for the rest of this school year. This does not mean that education won't continue. We will be challenged to develop a plan to educate your children while they are safe at home. As I am speaking, I know I am far from answering the many questions you have. My intent is to give you confidence that we will develop a plan moving forward that will eventually answer those questions. This will take some time.

Let me begin with the calendar date of April 20th that Newaygo County Schools will use as a *target* for implementation of our Continuous Learning Plan. Working back from that date, we will design the process that teachers will have in order to meet the needs of our students. We will do this as a team, working cooperatively together of create best plan possible.

We appreciate your input on our student internet and device survey. This was helpful for us to understand what online resources are available in our family's homes. Our plan will most likely coordinate a combination of both electronic and paper resources to meet the vast array of student needs. There is much work to be done, but a plan will be created and implemented.

I am offering some of the highlights that will help better understand the flexibility the Governor is offering as we move forward. They include the following:

*Students will not receive grades or assessments for online or packet learning.*

*Attendance will not be taken daily, but rather through the overall participation in the process.*

*Students will not be taking the M-STEP, PSAT, or SAT at school this year.*

*All students who were on track to be promoted to the next grade or graduate will still do so.*

*Students will not be penalized in any way if they are unable to complete assignments due to lack of resources.*

All Newaygo County school districts are brainstorming how and when to hold graduation ceremonies later this summer, if allowed to do so by the State of Michigan.

Parents, although academic support is important, I assure you our teachers and staff miss your kids very much and are very concerned for their wellness and safety during this crisis. Please follow the guidelines put forth by our government in order to keep all of us safe and well in our district.

I appreciate your patience as we unfold this plan to you over the course of the next couple of weeks.