

# LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOLS

6539 Summit Rd. SW, Pataskala, OH 43062

p. (740) 927-6926 | f. (740) 927-9043

March 13, 2020

Good Morning Families:

As an update, late last night the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) released initial guidance about what will occur during the extended spring break declared by Governor DeWine. Additional guidance is expected from the ODE and I will provide more details as they are made available. Nonetheless, the following is information about the impact to our school district.

Licking Heights Schools will be open and in session for students Monday, March 16; however, then we are on an extended break Tuesday, March 17 through Friday, April 3 and impacts preschool through grade 12. It is our expectation schools will reopen Monday, April 6, contingent upon further direction from the Governor.

Specific to individual buildings, parents and students will receive communication from their principals and teachers regarding instruction no later than the end of the day Monday, March 16. Additional updates will be provided throughout the break. We need your full cooperation with this endeavor because we will be operating on an extended spring break and these days are not classified as “calamity.” This is an important distinction because it means if education is delivered in different formats, there will NOT be a requirement to make up days in June. Note that a distance learning day will not mirror an in-school day. Traditional class hours and coursework may be adjusted.

Effective at the end of the day Monday, March 16, all school activities (including: after-school activities, extracurricular activities, and athletic practices and games) are cancelled. Additionally, all non-district building use is cancelled as of the end of the day Monday, March 16 through Sunday, April 5. However and consistent with the Governor’s order, our high school is open for voting Tuesday, March 17 in the high school auxiliary gym and for the churches who regularly lease our spaces, if they so choose.

Specific to other scheduled events, we postponed (not cancelled) the LHHS musical production, Rock of Ages, and district art show. If all goes as expected and the risk to public health lessens, we expect to reschedule these events before the end of the school year. Kindergarten registration and enrollment screenings are still planned to be held Monday, April 27 – Friday, May 1. However, the marching band trip to Orlando and the eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C. are cancelled. We are working with both tour companies to try and facilitate potential reimbursements for families.

As of this morning we are learning more about other potential options for students. For example, we are waiting for additional guidance regarding YMCA programming. There is a chance the YMCA may be able to operate within our school buildings as long as the population does not exceed 100 people, consistent with the Governor’s order. Additionally, we are learning more about options to provide meals to students in need, consistent with federal and state guidelines.

Additional updates about the YMCA, and meals for students, are forthcoming. For now, the YMCA will remain open through the end of the day Monday, March 16, at 6 p.m.

Finally, at this time there are still many questions and I am confident we will work through this challenge to do the best we can for students, families and staff. Also, I suspect the State of Ohio will provide some relief to help manage upcoming procedural and time sensitive matters, such as graduation requirements, state testing, etc. However, now is the time to focus on protecting public health. Later, once public health risks improve, we will concern ourselves with procedural and time sensitive matters.

Information will continue to be shared with families via email and on the district website.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip Wagner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "P" and "W".

Philip Wagner, Ph.D.  
Superintendent