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March 15, 2020

Dear Families:

Recently, most of our waking minutes have been consumed with trying to manage the Coronavirus and a future that is unclear. Information is so fast changing with medical updates that seem to change by the hour. Considering all that is going on and current medical reports, I am closing the Licking Heights School District effective immediately through Sunday, March 22, 2020 to honor the "social distancing" recommended by many medical professionals. As a reminder, the District's spring break begins on Monday, March 23 and before this date I will provide another update about what to expect after our spring break.

Regarding plans for the coming week, on Saturday evening some administrators and I participated in a group telephone call. As an outcome of that phone conference, we are refining district and building plans. Therefore, watch for a parent/family guidance document to be released no later than Sunday evening. This document will provide further details about how we plan to deliver the educational program and how, if needed, families can gather their child's belongings currently located within the school buildings. I believe there may be some need for some limited emergency access to the District's buildings and our plan will include times and essential district personnel needed for such access.

As a related matter, I am not sure what will occur with voting at our high school auxiliary gymnasium on Tuesday, March 17 and we will follow up with the Board of Elections to determine the path they want to follow.

Additionally, it is good to have resources and I want to remind everyone the Ohio Department of Health opened a call center to answer questions regarding COVID-19. The call center is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and can be reached at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634.)

These are unprecedented times and I know recent days have been stressful, but I have confidence this will eventually pass and we will work through these challenges.

Proud to be a Hornet!

They H. Gagan

Philip H. Wagner, Ph.D. Superintendent