



April 6, 2020

Dear Families:

Today, Governor DeWine's most recent order goes into effect. While he has physically closed Ohio schools through Friday, May 1, the Stay At Home Order also has been extended. As we mentioned last week, our teachers and administrators have been hard at work refining our distance learning and extended closure educational plan. You can review this updated information attached to this letter.

- **School Work and Grading.** As we continue this next step into extended closure, I am requesting that all families help dispel any rumors about school work and grading. To be clear, *all school assignments are to be taken seriously and will count toward a student's final grade.* This morning I was on two separate conference calls with over 50 teachers and administrators from our district and the number of missing student assignments was much higher than typical and in some cases hovered around 40% missing student assignments. Again, please help me circulate correct information that *school work does count because all our students need to be prepared for promotion to the next grade level and/or graduation.*
- **Seniors.** As I previously shared, we feel terrible about our 12th grade students. Additionally, if the Governor extends the school closure beyond May 1, we are exploring potential options regarding our graduation ceremony. Similarly, we are looking at options regarding Prom currently scheduled for May 1. I am working closely with Mrs. Tiffane Warren, high school principal, regarding these topics.
- **Distance Learning.** Previously, you have been asked by your child's teacher about connectivity to the Internet. At the end of this message is information on establishing low-cost home Internet access through a variety of area providers. During this difficult time, Licking Heights School District is also offering limited free Wi-Fi access on the South and West Elementary campuses as well as the high school stadium below the press box (weather permitting). [The maps](#) indicate areas where you will be able to connect to the wireless access points in your car at South and West. If you access this Wi-Fi network, you will need to connect to the guest Wi-Fi (LHSD) and accept the terms of usage before continuing on to the Internet. Signal strength will be dictated by the number of users and proximity to the building. It is advisable that you only connect the device you will be using for school work. Every device connected counts as a user and pulls from the overall Wi-Fi bandwidth.
- **Meals for Students.** For those who opted-in to supplemental meals, pick-up will occur at Central Middle School every Tuesday (white cards) from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or Thursday (yellow cards) from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. during the mandated school closure and will include 5 breakfast and 5 lunch meals. All families received a pick-up card (either

White or Yellow) to be displayed in their vehicle when picking up meals to eliminate unnecessary interaction. Students no longer need to be present.

Finally, to comply with Ohio's [updated Stay At Home Order](#), please ensure everyone in your family stays home if they are able. It is important to maintain proper social distance (at least six feet) during this time when they are with anyone other than immediate family. Unfortunately, this amended order means no gatherings, no playdates, and no sleepovers. Children are often asymptomatic carriers of the coronavirus, which means they can cause loved ones to get sick with potentially dire consequences without being ill. We will continue to share information and resources on [our district website](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip D. Wagner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Philip Wagner, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Extended Closure Plan

April 6 - May 1, 2020

Access and Delivery of Instruction

1. Teachers will be available daily via email to address questions or concerns from families, administration and students during the hours of 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Students will be provided online access to required textbooks (if needed) by their teacher. Below is a chart with grade-level specific resources.
2. Teachers will hold office hours for at least 30 minutes each day in order for parents and students to communicate with teachers directly.
3. All teachers have access to Google Classroom. This allows tracking of assignments, communication among teacher and student/parents and time-stamped due dates.
4. In the event a student is unable to access the Internet, families without access to a device should contact their student's principal immediately to request to borrow a Chromebook from Licking Heights Local Schools.
5. Families that do not have access to the Internet in their homes should contact their local cable provider for more information about free Internet services during this extended closure of all schools in Ohio.

[AT&T Access](#)

[Charter Communications](#)

[Comcast Internet Essentials](#)

[Spectrum Internet Assist](#)

Special Education

1. All IEP and 504 Plan modifications and accommodations will be provided to students through assignments posted on Google Classroom, or hard copies will be given to students.
2. Teachers will continue to provide modified coursework or accommodations, testing, and materials to all students who qualify for these services.
3. Students requiring extended time for assignments will be given extended-time based on a school day schedule.
4. Intervention specialists and service providers (Speech Lang. Pathologist, OT, PT, etc.) will communicate with each parent at least one time a week and document parent feedback regarding students. Intervention Specialists and service providers will be available during the hours of 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Grading

1. The collection and assessment of materials will vary by grade level. All teachers have access to Google Classroom and will be able to track assignments and communicate with students and parents.
2. All assignments are expected to be completed upon the date(s) designated by each individual teacher.
3. Questions about individual classes and graded assignments should be directed to your child's teacher.
4. ProgressBook will still be accessible during this time to all parents. The former fee restrictions have been lifted during this extended closure of all schools in Ohio.

Services

1. School Counselors will be available to provide resources for families with specific needs, including 504 Plans.
2. Intervention Specialists, Teachers of English Language Learners (ELL) and School Counselors will be available to respond to their students to ensure student accommodations are being met in collaboration with general education teachers.
3. High School Counselors will continue to monitor seniors and work with families to facilitate the completion of graduation requirements.
4. Counselors will also assist in facilitating communication with outside academic partners (Columbus State, OSU, Advanced Placement classes, etc.)

Core Instruction through May 1, 2020

Communication

1. Parents if you have questions about an assignment, please contact your child's teacher via email.

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Focus</u>	<u>Resources</u>
Pre K	Letters, Numbers, Shapes, and Colors	Age/developmentally-appropriate packets and online resources communicated via email or available in paper copies for pick up.
K - 4	Reading and Math focus	Google Classroom, live and recorded teaching sessions using YouTube, Zoom, Nearpod, etc. Use of district curriculum materials (Think Central, ConnectEd, eHarcourtSchool).
5 - 8	Continue with course-specific curriculum	Google Classroom, Khan Academy, Edulastic, CommonLit, Prodigy, Study Island and Think Central
9 -12	Continue with course-specific curriculum	Google Classroom, IXL, ALEKS, Achieve 3000 and paper copies.

Home Internet access

Getting online

There are several opportunities for families to purchase reduced-cost residential Internet service packages, by qualifying for programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or the National School Lunch Program, if the cost is an issue. Families must not currently have a plan in place or a past-due balance with the provider.

- [AT&T Access](#)
- [Charter Communications](#)
- [Comcast Internet Essentials](#)
- [Spectrum Internet Assist](#)

Offline capabilities

Your Chromebook is optimally designed to run with a wireless Internet connection. A lack of wireless Internet does not render the Chromebook obsolete or useless, but it is important to understand the limitations of technology. If you do not have Internet access at home you have options.

Google offers support about Chromebook offline capabilities and how to enable them:

<https://support.google.com/chromebook/answer/3214688?hl=en>

Community resources

Though currently closed through May 1, branches of the Columbus Metropolitan Library and Licking County Library provide access to wireless Internet during regular business hours. They also offer homework help centers on most weekdays.

- [Columbus Metropolitan Libraries](#)
- [Licking County Libraries](#)