

LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOLS

6539 Summit Rd. SW, Pataskala, OH 43062

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

April 23, 2020

Dear Families:

Over the past few months, we have faced challenges in the collective fight to stop the spread of coronavirus. We appreciate your cooperation, compassion and understanding as it has not been easy. Thank you for your compliments about the dedication of our staff in this online learning format. Their efforts are immensely appreciated.

Extended School Closure. Earlier this week, Governor Mike DeWine announced that all school buildings in Ohio will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year. Though this news was not a surprise, we share in your disappointment. We do not have all of the answers regarding education in Ohio, but here is what we currently know about this school year:

- Distance learning will extend through the remainder of the school year. The last day of school will remain Friday, May 22.
- The district's student meal program will continue through the end of the school year.
- This is a difficult and stressful time for families. Our counselors are available to support your child's wellness; please reach out should your student need additional support.
- LHHS graduation has been tentatively rescheduled for Saturday, July 25 at the Jerome Schottenstein Center. However, as situations continue to change, we want families to prepare for the possibility of a virtual graduation ceremony depending on orders allowing mass gatherings.

Future Planning. Also, as early as Monday April 27, 2020 Governor DeWine is expected to provide additional guidance about the current Stay At Home Order scheduled to expire by May 1. Once Governor DeWine provides additional guidance, it will help with future planning and we will be able to address questions about how to secure personal items from the school buildings as well as return any district property.

School Work and Grading. As a reminder, all school assignments are to be taken seriously and will count toward a student's final grade. The good news is that in the last few weeks missing student assignments have significantly decreased and more students are engaged with the learning process; however, districtwide approximately 10% of student assignments are still missing. Also as a reminder, *school work does count because all our students need to be prepared for promotion to the next grade level and/or graduation.*

As the district moves into the extended closure plan, attached to this message is our district grading guidance information. This information explains how fourth-quarter student work will be

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graded in this online/virtual environment. This information is grouped as follows: Kindergarten through fourth grade (K-4th) and then fifth through twelfth grade (5th – 12th).

Parade to Honor our Seniors. On Friday (April 24) between 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. the high school staff organized a parade of cars to drive through the following neighborhoods: Taylor Glen, Brooksedge, Royal Elm, Broadmoore Commons, Creekstone, Willow Brook Crossing, Waggoner Run and the Woods at Jefferson. Unfortunately staff cannot make it to every individual street within our 37 square miles, but those in the parade will continue to exercise social distancing by staying in their cars and ask that you simply say hello from the sidewalk or porch.

New High School Building Project. On a positive note, as of the date of this letter the new high school building project is 78% complete. We continue to march forward and prepare for the 2020/21 school year and the district reconfiguration process that provides overcrowding relief for every school building by redistributing the student body among six school buildings, instead of our current arrangement of five buildings.

Nonetheless and even with some positive news about our new high school, it saddens me to know we won't see students back in the classroom this academic year. Continue to stay safe and focus on your families, we will get through this together.

Sincerely,



Philip Wagner, Ph.D.
Superintendent