



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Parents,

I want to thank everyone for their patience and dedication in helping ensure that we do our part in decreasing the spread of COVID-19. As a district we continue to work with local and State officials to provide the most appropriate response and support for our community.

It is not easy to talk to our children about these things and I wanted to share a resource with all of you to help. The National Association of School Psychologists has produced a website on [Talking to Children About COVID-19](#). It can be accessed at nasponline.org. I personally used this site in order to be prepared to talk with my own children. Here are a few points to remember when talking to children:

- Remain Calm and Reassuring
- Make Yourself Available
- Monitor Child's Television Viewing and Social Media
- Maintain a Normal Routine to the Extent Possible
- Be Honest and Accurate
- Know the Symptoms of COVID-19
- Take Time to Talk

As a district we want to make sure our students have an opportunity to learn during this time off. We will not require any mandatory work during this time period other than those enrolled in virtual classes and dual enrollment classes. We do want to have resources for parents and students available to use to further their studies. Every little bit counts and it will also help with the transition back to school. If you have not yet, you should see communication soon from your child's principal and teachers with resources on what can be done over this break. Please take the opportunity to help your student stay busy over break.

During this window of shutdown, 3/13 - 4/5, the district has completely closed and will only have essential staff reporting. The only office that will be open, with limited hours, will be our central office. All activities, programs, trips, and events have been cancelled or postponed. This includes all athletic events and practices. There will be no rentals or usage of school property.

We still wait on guidance surrounding the school lunch program and days of forgiveness from the State of Michigan. Once we have clear guidance we will develop plans and communicate to families. This includes spring break scheduling.

William Heath
Superintendent
Portland Public Schools