

From: Maumee City Schools <SchoolMessenger@maumee12.org>
Subject: COVID-19 Update (3/15/20)

3/15/20

Parents and Staff,

Although it may go without saying this week has been like no other. Let me begin today by acknowledging you for your support of your children as well as our staff during this difficult week. Beginning today and lasting for the next few weeks I will provide a statement to you each day to provide you updates as we continue to work as a community to address not only the educational needs of our students but also the transportation, food and connectivity issues many will face in the coming weeks. It is times like this that we must operate as a community, regardless of our school, church, and social affiliations.

Over the weekend, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) issued new guidance for the closing of schools. Their new recommendation is that schools close for 8-20 weeks. While I cannot tell you at this time how long we will be closed, we need to plan for this closure to go beyond the current 3 weeks mandated by Governor DeWine. We will continue to follow the guidance provided to us by the CDC as well as our local and state health departments.

We do know that beginning tomorrow, March 16th, all face to face instruction is suspended and children should not be attending school. Our instructional staff will be participating in a day of professional development as they plan their transition to delivering instruction in a modified format. We will be encouraging staff to use new technology resources and platforms and your patience and understanding are appreciated as there will be a learning curve for all involved. Staff will be communicating their plans for instruction in the coming days.

This past week we sent home a paper form and asked all students grades K-8 to fill out and return to their homeroom teacher. Based on the response, we will be ready to deploy Chromebooks we have disinfected and sanitized to those who requested them. Our schedule will be as follows:

Wayne Trail and Fort Miami students can pick up devices at our Performing Arts Center lobby located on the northeast side of the building at Maumee High School from 6AM to 6PM on Tuesday, March 17th. If you requested a device and cannot pick one up on Tuesday, devices will be available at the Wayne Trail and Fort Miami offices beginning on Thursday, March 19th and Friday, March 20th between 8AM and 3 PM.

Gateway and Fairfield students can pick up devices at the Gateway Learning Center by entering door #15 located on the northwest side of the building from 6AM to 6PM on Tuesday, March 17th. If you requested a device and cannot pick one up on Tuesday, devices will be available at the Gateway and Fairfield offices beginning on Thursday, March 19th and Friday, March 20th between 8AM and 3 PM.

If you did not indicate you needed a device and now would like one or if you did not return the form and need a device, please email our Director of Technology at jdugan@maumeeek12.org. At this time we anticipate beginning our new modified instructional delivery later this week and most students will need a device to continue their education. Once again, I will communicate a firm date in the coming days.

If you are concerned about connectivity, we are planning to open a space in each of our buildings large enough to provide for social distancing as well as provide connectivity in as many of our parking lots as we can. We are also finalizing plans to provide access at a location on the west side of our district in the geographic area of Plumleaf, Ryewyck, and Briar Lane since we do not have a school building in this area. Our district content filter will continue to monitor all access provided by our schools. We have also been in contact with several cell phone carriers and broadband suppliers requesting they provide additional service options for students and families. Please [click here](#) for a list of current providers who we have been told are offering assistance during this health crisis.

Thanks to a collaborative effort of community leaders who met Saturday morning, we are also in the process of finalizing a community meal program. Several local churches have volunteered to assist with this effort to ensure no Maumee family goes without food. We have strategically chosen sites that are accessible across the school district. At this time we anticipate beginning our food program this Wednesday, March 18th. We are finalizing details with our commodities suppliers as well as the Lucas County Health Department.

This group is also working to provide childcare for children ages 3 to grade 5 at locations throughout the city. If you cannot arrange childcare and need care to be able to work during the day (8AM-4PM), starting on Tuesday you can call 419-720-3285 to arrange for care. When you call we will provide registration details. Please know these sites will be serving a limited number of students and staffed by community volunteers who have completed a background check and are willing to provide this service without receiving extensive training.

We are also concerned about the mental health needs of our community especially in this time of crisis. Please keep in mind resources are available in addition to our school counseling staff and school psychologists. If you

feel your student is in crisis please contact Rescue Mental Health Services at 419-255-3125 or Ohio Telehealth at 614-526-9764. If you feel your student may need additional support outside of school, Eddie Coutcher, a counselor who frequently works with Maumee students through St. Luke's is available at 419-897-8318.

This collaborative group is also seeking anyone 18 years of age or older who is interested in assisting our community by volunteering in a variety of ways from driving elderly to routine appointments to possibly delivering items necessary to sustain daily life. If you would like to volunteer please call 419-720-3285.

Our district and city leaders are also part of a communication system set up by the Lucas County Emergency Operations Center. We will continue to participate in conference calls and review communications sent to us. This system allows for open communication amongst all government entities including action plans and follow up on items of need. The county has also established helplines for those concerned about having symptoms that can be reached by calling 419-251-4000 as well as 419-291-5355.

I have also been contacted and asked if there is a way for those who are able to make financial donations to support community efforts and those in need. At this time we are encouraging such donations to be directed to Maumee Churches United (310 Elizabeth St, Maumee, OH 43537) as they have been an active partner at the table throughout the planning and are taking an active role as we work together to meet the needs of our community.

I'll end with details related to athletics and activities. At this time per Ohio High School Athletic Association mandates, all sports in grades 7-12 are suspended. Here is their statement taken from <https://www.ohsaa.org/news-media/articles/ohsaa-winter-and-spring-sports-update>

A MANDATORY no-contact period is in effect for all school-sponsored sports March 17-April 5, 2020. Additionally, there will be a mandatory shut down of facilities used for the purpose of conducting athletics activities from March 17-April 5, 2020.

I could not be more proud of our staff whose work, regardless of their position looks much different today than it did only 1 week ago. We will continue to work together in the best interest of our students and provide the highest level of support possible during this public health challenge. Please take time each day to review any and all communications sent to you by our staff as this is a very fluid situation. We realize that this shift in the way we educate our students puts additional stress on our students and those reading this communication. We will

continue to work to provide as many resources as we can both as a school district and as a greater community.

Thank you again for your continued support during this time.

Todd M. Cramer, Superintendent - Maumee City Schools