



Groveport Madison Schools District Service Center

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March 30, 2020

Groveport Madison Parents, Students, and Staff:

On March 13, 2020, to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID19), Governor DeWine placed all of Ohio's public school districts on a three-week extended spring break. Today, at Governor DeWine's afternoon press conference, he announced Ohio's public schools would remain on the extended break through at least Friday, May 1.

In addition to today's gubernatorial order for schools to remain closed through Friday, May 1, several other changes were made last week with the legislature's passage of House Bill 197. This bill goes into effect immediately and impacts the following:

- Courses and assignments students complete online will count toward minimum hours of instruction required by state law. Therefore, we will not have make-up days later in the year. However, learning must continue online, and the state minimum requirements of learning hours must still be met. Students will need to continue to do their daily work and communicate with their teachers.
- All K-12 standardized testing for students is waived for this year and will not occur. Students will not be penalized or held accountable for not having completed the state assessments.
- Special education services can and should be delivered electronically or via telecommunication.
- School districts were granted the authority to graduate any student who the district considers to be "on track" to graduate. This allows us to grant a diploma to any senior the school district determines as having met the requirements for graduation. Very shortly, counselors will make contact with seniors to discuss what the student must complete by the end of the year to be eligible for graduation.
- The Third Grade Reading Guarantee has been temporarily suspended. Therefore, our current third graders are exempt from being retained in the third grade, unless the principal and reading teacher determine the child is significantly behind. More information will come soon to third-grade families.

The mission of Groveport Madison Schools is to build a community of learners, leaders and responsible citizens.

Every Student, Every Lesson, Every Day

- Local governments, including boards of education, are permitted to hold remote/virtual meetings. However, the public must still have access to view, hear, and participate in meetings, as defined by Board Policy. We are currently working on options to allow this to occur, should our Board of Education decide to do so. Regardless, we will notify the public in advance as to how we will proceed.
- Districts are permitted to continue to provide lunch to children 18 and under while on the extended break. Groveport Madison Schools will continue to provide two breakfasts and two lunches every Monday and three breakfasts and three lunches every Wednesday. We will not serve meals during the District's spring break April 10 - 17. We will resume the Monday and Wednesday meal service after spring break.

While this situation has been challenging for us all, I genuinely believe that we are in a very good place when compared to many other school districts across Ohio. Thanks to the support of our taxpayers, each of our K-12 students already had been assigned a Chromebook computer, with our 6-12 even taking their computer home each evening and over the weekends. Students already were using many online learning tools and resources to supplement what they were learning in class. With having to move to a virtual school experience, I believe our students have adjusted relatively well, and they are completing their assignments, just as is expected of them.

As you know the third grading period ended last Friday. Information will come out this Wednesday to families and students on how to access report cards. Reminder - students do need to do their work each day to pass their courses!

Again, if your student needs access to technical support during this time, you can email tech_dept@gocruisers.org for help.

As we move forward, we will continue to work closely with our teachers and principals to improve our online learning systems further and to find new and exciting ways to engage our students.

As the situation continues, we can expect there will be additional changes that will affect our students, parents, and staff. Please know we will continue to do our best to keep you informed as these decisions are made known.

Lastly, we will continue to maintain a repository of all information related to the extended break. The can be found at gocruisers.org/ExtendedBreakInformation.aspx. Questions and suggestions also can be submitted to gm.communications@gocruisers.org.

Respectfully,

Garilee Ogden
Superintendent