



Elkhart Lake – Glenbeulah School District

DISTRICT OFFICE / HIGH SCHOOL

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ELEMENTARY / MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dear ELG Parents, Students and Staff Members,

Greetings from ELGS! Overall, the “launch” of our virtual, off-site/at-home instruction went well. By now, hopefully you and/or your students have had contact with your children’s teachers and the groundwork has been laid for moving learning forward for all involved. We say all, as we realize, going through this process, it’s not just the kids who are learning, but the staff, administration and parents too! Again, we want to encourage parents and students to reach out to the teachers if there are any questions, concerns, etc. There is office staff on-site each day, in addition to the administration team. We are here to help.

During this time, there are still many unknowns and the rules/guidelines seem to be changing almost daily on how we are supposed to deal with the CoVid19 pandemic. Flexibility and adaptability are key. We can only do the best we can to deal with the situation each day and the new challenges that arise. Included in this packet is a letter from the principals giving further guidance regarding the “instructional aspects” and a handout from DPI on social distancing during school closures.

I want to use my letter to provide some general information and to try to answer some common questions/concerns that I have been asked.

- **Updated Information:** Updates that require “timely” notification will continue to be sent via Blackboard Connect and these you receive via text, phone message and/or email. Wendy and Diane will continue to send out email announcements. Also we will be updating our website to include information on the District website main page. There will be four different areas you will be able to access: General District updates from me; Instructional updates from the principals; Ideas/Activities/Resources for Parents for Educational and Emotional Support; and General links/information on the Coronavirus. Please use the website as a resource and information source.
- **Family Assistance:** We have reached out to the Foundation, Elkhart Cares and the Community for financial support so we are able to help families in need during this time and the response is overwhelming. **So PLEASE, PLEASE, we are here to help for child care, food assistance, gift cards to meet basic needs. Also an area organization, Elkhart Cares has offered to help families with financial assistance paying utility bills if there is a need.**

We are reaching out to families where we feel there may be a need, but we know we are missing some. Please reach out to us. Due to the overwhelming response, we are in a position to help. Educating our children is very important to us during this time, but it’s not the only thing—being sure our families have food and their basic needs met is even more important. To help with this, you can contact me, Debbie Hammann (876-3307) or the building principals. We can include you in on our food deliveries, on our gift card mailing or get you information from Elkhart Cares.

Food Deliveries: Our kitchen staff, Bridget and Lanette, is busy preparing tasty meals for our families with help from our area restaurants. Meals are provided three days a week: Monday (2 days of meals), Wednesday (2 days of meals) and Fridays (3 days of meals). Meals are either picked up at school or delivered—whatever works best for the families. Currently we are feeding approximately 80 people per day, but would very willingly add to this list! Call me or Debbie to be added—this can help at any time!

Child Care: Our Child Care facility is open. Registration fees are being waived for new families. We are following the current mandates issued by the Governor regarding capacity, staffing, etc. At this time, we still have plenty of room for additional children. Call Diane Schwaller, 876-3307, for more information and/or to enroll your children in this program. She can also work with families who may have financial concerns/needs.

Our Mission is to Challenge, Inspire, and Empower in a Caring, Innovative Learning Environment.

Safer-At- Home Order issued March 24 – While there were many components to the latest order issued by the Governor, there were only a few that impacted our District’s operations. As we are an “essential” service, we can do what is necessary to facilitate our student instruction, run our food service, run our child care center, and keep our basic daily operations functioning. So none of our current processes that have been in place will be changing – we are here to answer questions, staff will continue to teach and may come into the building to prepare for classes/get materials ready for kids (if needed), etc. However, as in the past, students are not permitted to come into school or be on school grounds—with the exception of picking up packets/materials as needed. These will continue to be available in the school lobbies.

The new changes are that we now have to close our Fitness Center to the public and also our playgrounds. While we know this will cause hardships to some of our residents, and it will be difficult to the students, especially as the weather gets warmer, we have no choice. We need to follow the Governor’s orders. Please respect and follow the closures of these areas.

- **Duration of School Closure** – This is still unknown. The latest order from the Governor had an ending date of April 26. However, this could be amended at any time, dependent on the spread and/or containment of the virus. It could be extended; it could be shortened. I would recommend using April 26 as a “target date” at this time, but stay tuned.
- **How does this affect vacation dates, special school events, summer school, and spring sports?**
Vacation dates: Vacation dates are NOT affected. Spring Break will still be held April 9 – 13 and students will still have no school on May, 22.

Summer School – At this time, plans have been made for Summer School to be held. However, we are holding off on sending out materials until we have more information regarding this. Hopefully we will know more by mid-April/early May so we can get the materials to you. At this time, unless we are directed by the Governor’s office that we cannot have summer school, are intention is that classes will be held. We think our students (and parents) will be ready and excited to attend!

Special School Events – Will we have prom? Graduation? 8th Grade Recognition? At this time, no decisions have been made regarding these events, but I can tell you, the direction for these “milestone events” would be to try to hold them sometime...even if it’s not at the regularly scheduled dates. Who says Prom as to be in May? Maybe it’s in the summer? Again, these are just more examples of we have to wait and see.

Spring Sports – this is totally up-in-the-air. Along with school district, WIAA too, is waiting to see how long schools will be closed and what “restrictions” may be imposed in the future. Again, stay tuned.

- **Will students/staff need to make up time, State Assessments, etc.?** Through the “virtual/off-site” instruction plan we have in place, we will be very close to meeting the State’s requirement on “hours of instruction” but we will also be applying for a waiver—just in case there is a need. The State has promised flexibility in approval of waivers submitted so approval of our waiver, once submitted, should not be a problem. Also the State is working with the Federal Government to get waivers from the required annual testing requirements. Once approved, standardized testing, which usually occurs in the spring, will be canceled for this school year so this will then not be a concern for our District.

Hopefully this answers a few of your questions, but as I have stressed, contact us if any should arise, or if you need any assistance. **We Are Here to Help —We Want to Help!**

Sincerely,

Dr. Buechel Haack (Ann)