

Jackson City School District



Mr. Phil Howard, Superintendent

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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT **March 20, 2020**

On Tuesday, we served about 450 hot meals, breakfast and snacks to our students. Wednesday and Thursday we were over 800 meals, breakfasts and snacks on both days. I want to commend our cooks, bus drivers and aides for their commitment to making sure that we are providing food for our students. Kudos to our secretaries who are making phone calls to those that we think could be in need of food. We are studying the data everyday and along with the ever changing recommendations from the Governor, we plan to make some changes moving forward in terms of food preparation and distribution. Information regarding what those changes are going to consist of will be communicated to parents/ guardians via robo call and on our website over the weekend.

In terms of academics, most of us believe that online learning is certainly not as effective as face to face instruction, but I will say that I have seen some wonderful things from our staff during this time. We have a lot of really talented and creative teachers. I have witnessed teachers and even principals reading to kids via technology. I have seen music lessons with groups of kids engaged in learning. I have observed online meetings between several groups of students and teachers. Many of our teachers are using lots of different apps and websites to help deliver, measure and monitor their instruction. I also know that many of our teachers have been reaching out to some students who may not be as actively engaged in this new form of instructional delivery to see if they can help them in any way with their assignments. For those individuals who believe that teachers have it easy right now, I can promise you that is not the case as most are working harder and longer than they ever have.

What we are doing is not perfect, but we are doing the best we can with the information and the resources that we have available at this time. I think that rational people realize that what we are dealing with right now is totally unprecedented. There is no blueprint out there for how things need to be done. We did a lot of planning prior to the order from the Governor to close the schools because we figured that was coming and I am thankful that we did. I think it put us ahead of the curve initially, but we are still learning things every day and making changes accordingly.

I have also had several questions about many important events that had been previously scheduled and I really don't have any definitive answers for people. Any event that was scheduled during the time that we are mandated to be out of school has been either cancelled or postponed to a later date. Events such as prom and graduation that were scheduled further out are still in limbo. I would hope that we will be back in school and students would be able to experience those special events, but there's no way to see that far into the future. OHSAA has not made any final decisions regarding the state championships for winter sports or what is going to happen with spring sports. All we can do is prepare for the worst and hope for the best at this point in time and be patient while doing our part in trying reduce the spread of this terrible virus.

If students, or parents / guardians have questions about their child's education I encourage you to reach out to your teacher and / or principal by email. If there are questions about food distribution you should contact your building principal either by phone or email.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Howard'.