



"Every student will excel, both personally and for the benefit of humanity."

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Thursday, April 2, 2020

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Earlier today, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued [Executive Order #2020-35](#), which suspends in-person instruction in all public, non-public and boarding schools for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year and lays the groundwork for schools to transition to distance learning, beginning with the development of a Continuity of Learning & COVID-19 Response Plan.

In her message, the governor emphasized that we're in a public health crisis and the health, safety and well-being of our students and educators is the top priority. She also acknowledged that certain rules governing K-12 education don't make sense within the context of our current reality, but that education must continue and we have an obligation to our students to provide them opportunities to learn during the pandemic. As such, she has charged districts with developing a plan for educating students that's focused on compassion over compliance. She also recognized that teaching, learning and the mode of delivering instruction will look different across districts; a one-size-fits-all approach is unrealistic. Moreover, when schools re-open for the 2020-21 school year, additional interventions and services will need to be provided to students.

Considering all of the above, here are a few key details from today's Executive Order:

1. *Decisions regarding the awarding of credit, the issuance of grades, and the use of pass or fail designations will be made at the district level by districts with due recognition of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.*
2. *Districts must develop a plan/process to give grades to seniors, award credits needed for graduation, certify transcripts, and confer diplomas. Districts are encouraged to award credit based on prior learning and content mastery and/or utilize project-based learning, a portfolio/resume approach, or a culminating activity. Districts must provide seniors who were failing a course or courses as of March 11, 2020, an opportunity (to the extent feasible) to demonstrate learning in the subject matter of the course and receive credit for the course.*
3. *Spring 2020 state assessments are cancelled as are all the state mandates associated with assessment including school accountability laws (e.g., A-F, third-grade reading retention, Partnership District goal attainment, etc.) and educator evaluations.*
4. *Students who would have taken the PSAT/SAT this spring will instead have the opportunity to test in the fall; those assessments will also not be tied to state accountability or evaluations.*

While suspending in-person instruction and moving to distance learning is a difficult decision, the Marysville Public Schools District supports the governor's actions, which put the health and safety of students and educators first. Likewise, our schools and teachers are doing everything they can to protect our community and families, and make these difficult times as productive as possible for our children.

The district understands that there will be many questions about our normal year-end routines and celebrations. Because of this, we'll be as responsive and creative as possible as we contend with how to best support students and families in these uncertain times.

Moving forward, the district will be looking at everything from graduation to grading, from schedules to student progress, and from academics to the emotional well-being of our students. We're also hyper focused on recognizing the Class of 2020 and are working on creative ways to recognize their accomplishments.

Thank you to all our parents for momentarily taking up the challenge of keeping your child(ren) engaged in learning. We greatly appreciate your support and understanding. In the coming days, the district will continue to communicate with you as plans become more solidified and additional answers to questions become available. We'll also provide an update and a preliminary "Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan" to support our students' learning on or before Friday, April 10, 2020.

We encourage you to visit the district's [website](#), watch for emails, and follow our [Facebook](#) page for new information.

Sincerely,



Shawn K. Wightman, Ed.D.

SUPERINTENDENT

Marysville Public Schools

MISSION

"Personalize learning for every student through rigor, relevance and relationships."