

MARGARETTA LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Mr. Dennis Mock, Superintendent
Mrs. Diane Keegan, Treasurer

March 11, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Margaretta Local Schools is taking a proactive approach to protecting our students and staff from the potential spread of the Coronavirus. First, I would like to assure you that we have no knowledge of any student or community members being diagnosed with Coronavirus (COVID-19). However, in order to be prepared should conditions change, and our schools must be closed for a period of time, we need to be ready to continue your child's education in a meaningful way, even if school is not in session.

The District has emergency procedures in place at all of our buildings in accordance with Ohio Revised Code. These procedures cover a wide variety of hazards from fire and tornado to pandemic disease outbreaks. The plans are updated on a yearly basis prior to the beginning of a new school year.

We are working in collaboration with the Erie County Health Department as well as surrounding districts to ensure that procedures are in place that are in the best interest of the health and safety of students, staff, and the community in relation to the current Coronavirus. The following are strategies that have been recommended by these partners:

- **Wash hands frequently.**
 - Thoroughly wash hands with soap.
 - Utilize hand sanitizers.
- **Maintain social distancing.**
 - Avoid shaking hands and fist-bumping.
 - Maintain a distance of 3 feet from individuals that are coughing or sneezing.
- **Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.**
- **Practice respiratory hygiene.**
 - Cover your mouth with a bent elbow when coughing or sneezing.
 - Dispose of used tissues immediately and wash your hands.
- **Seek medical care early if you have a fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.**
- **Stay informed and follow the advice given by your healthcare provider.**

Margaretta Local Schools is in the process of ensuring that hand sanitizer or soap/sinks and disinfectant wipes are available for all classrooms and offices. Margaretta Local School District will also provide a deep clean to all facilities.

Class trips and field trips that are planned for the remainder of this school year are being evaluated based on the threat levels provided by the Health Department. These trips will be canceled if the threat level reported is high for any given location. In cooperation with other area school districts, Margaretta will also suspend large gatherings at extracurricular activities for the next 30 days.

The closure of a building or the district will be determined in collaboration with the Erie County Health Department, CDC, state officials, and other Erie County school districts. In the event of a prolonged closure, additional days may be added to the end of the school calendar per current district calamity day procedures. Detailed information will be provided if a closure becomes imminent.

The district is evaluating the effect this situation could have on student learning. We are surveying students and staff on the availability of Internet and electronic devices students will have access to at home.

We encourage ill staff and children to stay home and follow the Ohio Department of Health's communicable disease recommendations for return to school, including being fever free for 24 hours without medication before returning to school.

I encourage you to visit the [Erie County Health Department](#), [Centers for Disease Control Prevention](#), and the [World Health Organization](#) websites for more detailed information and regular updates. This is especially important as we head into spring break and a travel season. Please also utilize [these resources](#) from the American Psychological Association if you or your family are experiencing increased anxiety in regards to the Coronavirus. Our collaborative efforts as a school and community can help prevent the spread of the virus.

As more updates become available, the administration at Margaretta Schools will share updates with students, parents, guardians, and staff. The advisories will be posted to social media, One Call, and our website as they are available.

Thank you,

Margaretta Local Schools