



CASHION PUBLIC SCHOOLS

First, I want to apologize if you feel you have not received enough information from me, but I would rather tell you facts than send you messages everyday of how we don't really know what's happening. This has been the most volatile/escalating situation I have ever experienced in my life. I received the first word from the State Department of Education this could affect schools on March 2nd now 23 days later I'm telling you we are reinventing education delivery for the rest of the year.

Today the State Board of Education, under recommendation of State Superintendent Joy Hoffmeister, has extended the closure of public school from April 6th to the remainder of the school year. This means buildings will be closed and all extra-curricular activities will be cancelled through May 8th - 15th, 2020 (new school year end date, decided by local board of education). We must now come up with a Continuous Learning Plan to meet the academic needs for our students and continue to expose our students to their required academic standards. This can include a mixture of distance learning and other new ideas of instruction delivery that may need to be created. Building principals have been working/brain storming on this since schools were closed last week. This new form of education will be ever changing and a work in progress. We will be more than open to any ideas that you may think of to provide our students the best education possible, just like always!

This closure causes me to have a heavy heart for many reasons. Our seniors will miss out on memories that they would have forever. Graduation, prom, extracurricular events, and just getting to finish out their senior year with friends are just some of the things that tear at my heart. I can't imagine how all our students and parents must feel. There are so many events that we will lose this year, such as kindergarten graduation, awards assemblies, contests, award banquets, laughs, cries, just watching the wonderful job parents / teachers do with our students, and getting to watch them grow. These are things we take for granted until they are abruptly taken away from us. If you have any ideas on how to lessen the blow of losing the last of our school year, please feel free to share. Know that we are planning to hold a graduation ceremony as soon as the gathering limitations are lifted if possible, or virtual in some manner.

CPS will continue providing meals for students, pay for teachers and support staff, and provide the best education possible for our students. We have a lot of planning to do as we are creating a whole new way of teaching/learning, an uncharted road. CPS will have a plan that will need to be tweaked, moved, and re-worked continually. We need everyone thinking creatively, being flexible, and evolving this new style of learning whether it be virtual, a combination, or another platform we haven't even heard of as of today.

The only thing I know for sure is there is no other school or community I would want to go through this with. I have no doubt that this group of caring and talented individuals will give our students nothing but the best.

Thank you,

CPS