



Questions and Answers about Michigan's Mandated School Shutdown Updated 3-17-2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Kearsley Community:

We know you have many questions about Governor Gretchen Whitmer's order to close all K through 12th grade schools until Monday, April 6. Since the announcement was made on March 12, we continue to seek answers and guidance from the state as we navigate through these uncharted waters.

We have compiled some frequently asked Questions and Answers. If you have a question that is not addressed here, please send your question via email to kearhelp@kearsleyschools.org.

Q: What does the shutdown mean for Kearsley Community Schools?

A: Beginning Tuesday, March 17, all school buildings, offices, facilities and grounds will be closed to the public until Monday, April 6. All school-related events, athletics and activities are suspended during this time. Decisions on whether events scheduled during this three-week shutdown will be postponed or canceled will be made by Monday, April 6.

Q: Will buildings be thoroughly cleaned during this shutdown?

A: Custodians will still be working throughout the shutdown period. Deep cleaning, which includes disinfecting, will take place during this time. According to health officials the coronavirus can persist in the air for up to three hours and on a hard surface for three days.

Q: Will students be required to go to school in summer to make up time?

A: Right now, we simply do not know. We do not believe students will be required to make up that time, but that will be up to the state to determine.

Q: Will the District be providing online instruction or curriculum for students to complete during the shutdown?

A: For the two week shutdown, we will not be delivering instruction. However, should the shutdown extend beyond April 5, we hope to deliver some form of online or non-traditional instruction. Currently we are working with the Genesee Intermediate School District in developing a list of resources of additional learning opportunities for parents and students to use during the shutdown. When we have that list compiled, we will share on our website and through email.

Q: I am worried about my student's grades. How will the shutdown affect make-ups, etc.

A: No student is to be expected to complete work at this time and should not be penalized for this forced shutdown. Students will be offered the opportunity to make up or complete any pre-shutdown required work when they return, but with consideration of the implications that this time off creates for student learning. We will reevaluate our curriculum and learning expectations when the time comes for school to resume.

Q: Will the third marking period be extended since it was supposed to end on March 26?

A: No. We will pick up where we left off in lesson plans and continue as a semester when we return. There will be no report cards sent home for the third marking period.

Q: What about graduation? How does this affect my senior?

A: Right now, we are planning to resume normal activities on Monday, April 6. If the ban is extended, we will need to reevaluate. In addition, we are unsure if the shutdown will affect the date that has been set for the last day of school for seniors. In the past, make-up days have not affected our seniors but we simply do not know the answer at this time.

Q: What does this mean for spring sports?

A: Right now the sports season is suspended. ALL Kearsley athletic activities have been suspended until further notice. This includes tryouts, practices, competitions, weight room, etc. We will continue to work with the Michigan High School Athletic Association and leagues to help with guidance and answer questions.

Q: Will we be providing food service to students

A: Yes. We have four distribution sites on Mondays and Thursdays until April 3, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Kearsley High School and Fiedler Elementary, 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at Gunther Mobile Home Park, and noon to 1 p.m. at Pineview Estates.

Q: Will spring sports be canceled?

A: We do not know the answer to this. We will follow the direction of the MHSAA

Q: Will outside small groups still be able to use the buildings?

A: No. All events that were scheduled at or through our district for the next three weeks are canceled.

Q: How will this affect state testing – M-STEP and the SAT in the spring?

A: We do not know how or if the state testing will be affected at this time and will continue to rely on the Department of Education for guidance.

Q: What about the Washington DC trip, Prom, Kindergarten Registration and other events planned in April?

A: As of right now, we are not canceling anything beyond April 6.

The guidance and direction from the state and federal level is changing daily and often within hours. As this is a rapidly changing event, we will attempt to continue to update and modify this Q & A throughout the coming weeks. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate these uncharted waters. Stay home and stay safe.