April 24, 2020

Dear Parents:

The Governor’s announcement this week to keep schools closed for the remainder of the school year was not the news we wanted to hear. Many of us probably expected this decision, but it doesn’t soften the disappointment. In light of this decision, Tipp City Schools will continue Distance Learning and provide students with quality learning opportunities.

Communication
If you have any concerns or your child is struggling with Distance Learning, please email the teacher for guidance. Not all children approach this educational platform with ease. Your child’s teacher can offer advice and assurances. School counselors and building principals are also available to help.

Tippecanoe High School Earns National Recognition
U.S. News and World Report named Tippecanoe High School a top high school in the country. The U.S. News Best High Schools rankings include data on more than 24,000 public high schools in 50 states and the District of Columbia. Nearly 18,000 schools were ranked on six factors based on their performance on state assessments and how well they prepare students for college. Congratulations to our district’s students and staff for this impressive accomplishment!

Graduation: Class of 2020
After a lengthy discussion with my administrative team, senior class advisors, and THS student senate, we crafted a wonderful way to celebrate our seniors. However, we received notification from the Ohio Department of Education late Thursday afternoon that derailed the plans. It is hoped the Governor makes an announcement within the next few days that will guide a final decision. Based on the current information, we have three items for the Class of 2020:

- In these times of uncertainty, Tippecanoe High School is offering the opportunity for each graduate to dress in their cap and gown and have a professional picture taken with their family in mid-May. Details will be forwarded to each senior. THIS IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE for a virtual graduation or a celebration.
- **Tipp City Schools will host a virtual graduation on May 30th, at 7:00 PM.** We realize it is not ideal, but we will make the day
memorable for our students and families. Plans are underway, and final details will be communicated with families next week.

- Tipp City Schools wants to hold out hope to celebrate our students in person. Any future celebration of our students in person would have to be in alignment with the Governor's directives.

**Prom**

Unfortunately, this year's prom is cancelled due to current directives from the Governor and social distancing protocols. Prom is a special event every school year, and we are disappointed our students will miss out on this opportunity.

**End-of-Year “Housekeeping”**

Medication pick-ups, locker cleanouts, and book returns will take place close to the end of the academic year in May. Specifics will be announced when details on how this will occur are finalized in the upcoming week.

**Spring Sports Season Participation Fees**

The OHSAA informed member schools that spring sports are now cancelled. Parents who have already paid participation fees for this season have options. The treasurer’s office will apply the payment to an outstanding student fee balance if there is one, refund the money, or reverse the charge for a credit balance in their child's fee account, that can be applied to the 2020-2021 school year. Parents selecting a refund need to email Athletic Director Kregg Creamer at kcreamer@tippcity.k12.oh.us. Please include your child's name, the parent name that should appear on a check, and a current address. The district will work to issue refunds in a timely manner, but it could take a few weeks.

**Winter Sports**

- **Winter Awards**-The athletic department recognizes the importance of applauding student athletic accomplishments. Coaches are working with the athletic department to issue the awards safely and recognize individuals.
- **Senior Banners**-Information will be forthcoming from the coaches soon.
- **Locker Cleanouts**-Locker room locker cleanouts will occur in tandem with end-of-year book returns and academic locker cleanouts. This will take place close to the last day of school.
- **Summer Camps**-We are planning summer camps but may need to cancel some or all depending on health guidelines and restrictions imposed by the state and local officials.

**Lunch Program**

The Lunch Program will continue until the end of the year without interruption. It will follow its current schedule located on the district’s home webpage. This is available for all students in Tipp City and does not require any prequalification. As a school community, please know that Tipp City Schools has provided the food, preparation, delivery van, staffing, and communication for the student lunch program since the schools have been under the state-mandated closure. We have partnered with Tipp Monroe Community Services to utilize the Lunch on Us program framework and with Tipp City United Methodist Church to use their kitchen and downtown
pick-up point. We are grateful for these essential partnerships. Together we are supporting our students during COVID-19 school closure through our local lunch program.

Parent and Student Survey
Tipp City Schools wants feedback from parents and students to better assess the success with Distance Learning and determine where enhancements need to be made. This information will help the staff make improvements. We will share more details next week.

Poetry Jam
What do we have when times are tough? HOPE! Tipp City Area Arts Council is publishing a special anthology for our community to chronicle this trying time. ALL members of our community are welcome to enter. For rules and a submission form, please visit the Tipp City Arts Council website. Send poems of hope to tippcityartscouncil@gmail.com or enter online via the TCAAC website at tippcityartscouncil.com/poetry-jam. Original artwork or photos may also be submitted for your original poem. Poems and artwork/photos will be posted on the TCAAC website, and Facebook for the online poetry jam (as they receive them) and a community anthology will be printed. The deadline is May 31st.

Please take care of yourself and each other,

Dr. Gretta Kumpf