



# LAMPHERE SCHOOLS

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**#wearelamphere**

Dear Lamphere Families:

We hope that you and your families are doing well. We miss seeing your children on a daily basis and interacting with you. We know that you are doing your best and we appreciate all of your efforts as you support your child's learning at home. Thank you!

As you have heard, the Governor announced that we will not be returning to face-to-face instruction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Included in Governor Whitmer's executive order, she stated that all districts must complete a Continuity of Learning Plan that would be submitted to the county and state, outlining our plan for providing new learning opportunities and support for our children for the remainder of the year. As a district, we are working diligently to ensure that your child remains supported and engaged as we move forward over these next 8 weeks together. Last week, a committee of general and special education teachers, support staff, specialists and administrators representing all grade levels, buildings and departments met virtually to plan for our next phase of instruction. Our steering committee oversaw and worked on Lamphere's Continuity of Learning Plan, which included: guidelines, schedules and expectations for all facets of online teaching and learning. This week all teachers are working in grade level bands to develop new learning units for all students. They are updating their Google Classroom so that all classrooms conveniently include support and/or lessons from resource teachers, reading specialists and "specials" teachers (i.e. STEM, art, music, physical education, tech lit). If you are having problems accessing your child's Google Classroom or have lost or misplaced the login credentials, please reach out to your child's classroom teacher for information.

We know that our online experience will not replace the outstanding face to face experience we were accustomed to, however we are committed to doing our very best for you and your child.

## **Beginning on Monday, April 20, you can expect us to:**

- teach all K-5 and students in special education self-contained classrooms, providing review and new learning in the areas of math, literacy, and social emotional learning, through videotaped mini-lessons, as well as teacher directed activities and lessons.
- provide check-ins on Google Classroom so that teachers can recognize which students may need additional support.
- develop a week's worth of lessons in the above areas and have them available for students each Monday morning by 9:00 a.m. on their Google Classroom, allowing families to determine appropriate pacing for assignments. (Note: teachers are following Michigan Department of Education's recommended online minutes per day.)
- ensure our teachers provide meaningful feedback (without grades) to our students, supporting and differentiating instruction to the extent possible.
- schedule and hold a live video classroom meeting once a week with their students, giving them an opportunity to see each other and engage socially.

- hold office hours twice a week for parents and/or students who wish to schedule dedicated time to meet individually with teachers about specific questions or concerns. Parents, teachers or students may initiate these meetings. (Note: parents and students are welcome to email teachers with questions any time, not just during office hours.)

Below are some answers to frequently asked questions we've been receiving over the last few weeks. If you have others, please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or building administrator.

**Feedback and Grades:** There have been many questions about grading. We are committed to supporting all of our students. For the remainder of the year, our priority is on sustaining connectedness and care as well as the continuation of learning for our students. A focus on keeping children emotionally and physically safe, fed, and engaged in learning is our priority. In accordance with the governor's order, there will be no formal report cards or grades assigned during this time. However, students are expected to engage in the material provided by their teachers and complete the work assigned.

**Grade-Level Promotion:** Pursuant to the governor's executive order, all students will be advanced to the next grade level. While our online experience will never replace what happens in the classroom, teachers have selected and prioritized the necessary lessons to prepare students for the next school year. We expect students to engage as much as they can in the mini-lessons and work provided by teachers over the next 8 weeks. We will be working over the summer to plan for ways to meet all of the needs of our students in the fall.

**Social-Emotional Support:** Our school psychologists are working with our elementary teams of teachers to provide meaningful social-emotional lessons for our K-5 students weekly. We know that this scary, unsettling time is stressful for our children and want to proactively provide lessons, strategies and support for our students and families. Please feel free to reach out to your child's principal with any needs and or concerns.

**Enrichment and Additional Resources:** Teachers will provide suggestions for enrichment and extra resources for students to work on if they choose to extend their learning. We are continuing to vet resources and links that teachers are adding directly into their Google Classroom pages for students/parents to easily access.

We are saddened that we will not be able to return to school and physically wish your children well as they complete the 2019-2020 school year. We do, however, look forward to "seeing" them, teaching and working closely with them through Google Classroom for the remainder of the year. We are wishing you well and hoping that your family remains safe and healthy. Remember, we are here for you! Please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or building administrator if you have any questions or concerns.

With respect,

Dale Steen, Patrick Dillon, Greg Fuller, Jane Jurvis  
The Lamphere Schools