



School District of Hilbert

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Invest, Interact, Inspire... Every Child, Every Day!

Dear Parents and Students:

As we start to transfer our students into our digital learning format, we wanted to reach out to our families to keep you informed of this process and our thinking behind it. We are currently at a very difficult time in our society. The dynamics of family, school, and life in general have been very different and ever changing the last few weeks. COVID-19 is having a major effect on our community, our families, and our students not only through this school closure, but also through loss of work, health care parents working more, and the anxiety of what is next.

The administrative staff understands that this is a difficult time for our families and students, so we wanted to make sure our families, students, and staff had time to adjust to the changes that are currently occurring. Students will be moving to a digital platform of learning, and many parents will need to work from home to do their job, watch their kids, and now be co-teachers with our staff to educate their child. This type of change does not happen quickly, so we wanted to make sure each family had some time to settle into those new roles. This is a stressful time for schools, businesses, and families, so we encourage you to take this time to connect with your family.

A transition from how we have always taught to an online format is something that takes time. If you look at all the colleges in Wisconsin, many are taking 2-3 weeks of spring break to make sure their online formats are ready to go for their students. There are many laws and procedures, we as an administrative team need to make sure we have in place to make this transition smooth for our staff, our students, and our parents. Terms like IDEA, FAPE, and equity need to be addressed before we can jump into digital learning. We need to make sure ALL students have access to our online format, so we had to survey every family in our district to make sure they have internet access, devices to access our online platform, and lunch to ensure they stay physically healthy.

Do not worry about our kids regressing during this time of transition. Every student, parent, and teacher is in this same situation, and we will all be ok. When our digital learning platform starts on April 6, we will ensure that each of our students are met where they are academically and continue to move forward. Our teachers are experts at what they do and they continue to amaze us at how well they have transferred to this digital platform. Our staff has started to reach out to our students to give them simple activities to complete to help us make sure that everyone can access the materials, but also to check in and see how they are doing. Our students are what make our job and this is a very difficult time for our staff not being able to be face to face with our students. Remember, we are all in this together. This is new to everyone whether you are an administrator, teacher, parent, or student. There may be a few bumps in the road as we move forward on April 6, but be patient with your child and be patient with our staff as we try to navigate this new type of educating our students.

As we move forward, please be aware of the following things to help you stay on top of information regarding the State of Wisconsin Mandated School Closure due to COVID-19:

- Check our website at www.hilbertk12.org for up-to-date information. On the main page, there is an icon entitled **COVID-19 School Closure Info**. Click on that icon and you will see a page full of information on what you need to know regarding this closure. We will post all communications and information here.

- If you have not already done so, please find us on **Instagram** (hilbert_school_district) or **Twitter** (@hilbertschools) as things are posted there almost every day.
- Governor Evers has implemented the "Safer at Home" Declaration from Wednesday, March 25, 2020 through 8:00 a.m. on Friday, April 24, 2020. See our website for more details on this closure.
- On the website under **COVID-19 School Closure Info**, you will see our **Digital Learning Plan**. This is currently being built. There will be live links to the student's weekly lesson plans by next Thursday, April 2, 2020.
- If you completed the survey and indicated that you need internet service, technology devices, or both, you will be contacted by the end of the day on Friday, March 27, 2020 via a phone call. You will also receive a letter and **Student Device Agreement** in the mail with instructions for pick-up.
- Starting on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, the School District of Hilbert will provide meals to all interested students in a grab-and-go format. Pick up will occur at the Main Office doors on Monday-Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. You should pull up to the front doors and remain in your car and the meals will be brought out to you. If you have any questions regarding this program, please call 920-853-3558 and ask for Lori Ott, Food Service Director.
- With regards to some major school activities like Graduation, Spring Musical, Prom/Post-Prom, Academic Awards Banquet, Spring Sports...nothing has been canceled. We are looking at rescheduling all of these events at this time, so that our students can still have these opportunities this school year. We will keep you up-to-date on this as we move forward.

We hope this letter provides you some comfort and important information as we move forward through this school closure. As always, feel free to reach out to any one of us via email or phone. #Hilbert Pride!

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