



March 18, 2020 Update

"Everybody has a plan until they get punched in the mouth."

Prior to a fight with Evander Holyfield, Mike Tyson was asked about Holyfield's preparation for the fight. Tyson famously said, "Everybody has a plan until they get punched in the mouth." A 15:2 underdog, Holyfield indeed got punched in the mouth early in the fight. Rather than abandon his plan, he maintained focus on his preparation and adapted quickly to the current reality. He went on to win the fight.

Our preparation for a possible pandemic began weeks ago when the Center of Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) asked that schools create Pandemic Response Plans. Utilizing resources gathered from many sources, we developed a comprehensive plan that included strategies for mitigating the spread of illness including:

- Maintaining regular contact with the Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) and gathering the best information from established experts,
- Educating our students, staff, and families about the illness and preventative measures,
- Utilizing maintenance standards designed specifically to prevent and control the spread of virus,
- Creating protocols for making decisions about the closure of schools,
- Developing Remote Learning Opportunities in the event that schools closed,
- Providing food for the students in our community, and
- Maintaining regular communication with our staff and community.

This preparation put us in a good position on Thursday, March 12, 2020 when the Governor announced that schools across the State of Michigan would be closed for an extended period of time. For example, we had already established regular communication with the Berrien County Health Department for guidance. Specific maintenance standards were established and carried out. Communication about COVID-19 and our plans to mitigate its spread were ongoing. Our teaching staff was already in the process of developing home learning opportunities. Finally, a plan was developed for the distribution of breakfast and lunch for the students in the community.

So how are we doing?

#### **Maintaining Regular Contact with the Berrien County Health Department**

Local superintendents and other community partners continue to get timely updates on COVID-19 from BCHD. We have a weekly standing meeting and receive daily updates via email. The BCHD website acts as a conduit for up-to-date information for schools and the community. Visit <http://www.bchdmi.org/278/Health-Department> (link).

## **Educating Staff and Students About COVID-19**

We will continue to post resources for our families and the community at <https://www.lpslancers.net> (link). We also encourage you to review the resources posted on the following websites.

### **Website Resources:**

Weblink: [The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#)

Weblink: [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#)

Weblink: [FEMA - Emergency Preparedness](#)

Weblink: [National Association of School Nurses - COVID-19 Resources](#)

## **School Facilities Deep Cleaning**

Utilizing standards designed specifically to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19, our dedicated custodial staff has been hard at work deep cleaning both indoor and outdoor facilities. We have restricted access to our buildings and outdoor facilities during our closure in an effort to maintain already disinfected areas and avoid opportunities for close personal contact as advised by the CDC.

## **Protocols for School Closure**

While the decision to close schools was made at the State level, we continue to work hand-in-hand with the BCHD to assure that we are making appropriate decisions on District facility access, future activity postponements and cancellations, and preparations for school reopening. As of now, Lakeshore Public Schools is prepared to open on April 13 after our scheduled spring break. Ultimately, a decision will have to be made as we approach that date whether to reopen the schools or extend the closure. As this is an unprecedented evolving situation, we cannot say with confidence that changes will not be made. We will continue to work in collaboration with the BCHD before making any decision.

## **Remote Learning Opportunities (RLOs)**

The teaching staff in Lakeshore worked hard to develop meaningful enrichment opportunities for our students during the school closure. While we understand we cannot replicate the experience that students have when being in the classroom on a regular basis with our teachers, the Remote Learning Opportunities are designed to support prior learning and enrich already developed skills. Below is a summary of RLOs and access information for students and parents.

Additionally, we are creating a page of resources for parents beyond the learning opportunities created by our staff. From skill building activities to virtual field trips, these links to free resources can further enrich learning during the closure.

### *Elementary School Remote Learning Opportunities*

- Elementary teachers have shared their grade level remote learning opportunities directly with parents via email. They are also posted on each elementary school website along with activities from our specials teachers.
- Students are encouraged to engage in the work that is provided to them to support prior learning and enrich already developed skills.
- Should a student have questions regarding the work, teachers are available for questions via school email. Every effort will be made to respond to questions during the working day. Communications sent after the “school day” can expect an answer the following day.

### *Middle School Remote Learning Opportunities*

- Teaching staff will begin posting their remote learning opportunities on Wednesday, March 18. Be sure to check Google Classroom and email. If you are a Choir student, there is a [tab](#) on the Choir Weebly for your learning opportunities. Check-in frequently
- Students are expected to engage in the work that is provided to them to support prior learning and enrich already developed skills.
- Should a student have questions regarding the work, teachers are available for questions via Google Classroom or school email. Every effort will be made to respond to questions during the working day. Communications sent after the “school day” can expect an answer the following day.

### *High School Remote Learning Opportunities*

- Teaching staff will begin posting their remote learning opportunities on Wednesday, March 18. Students will be expected to check both Schoology and their school email on a daily basis.
- Students are expected to work on the posted daily assignments and seek feedback as needed.
- Should a student have questions regarding the work, teachers are available for questions via school email and video conferencing using Google Meet. The link to access Google Meet will be posted on each teacher's Schoology page. Every effort will be made to respond to questions during the working day. Communications sent after the “school day” can expect an answer the following day.

### *Technology Access*

In an effort to provide equitable opportunities for all of our students during the closure, we have developed a plan to assist students that do not have access to technology devices or the internet. Both high school and middle school students were provided with Chromebooks at the beginning of the school year. Technology support is available throughout the closure.

- **K-5 Students Needing a Device** - If you are a K-5 student and need a device to do the activities during the closure, you can email [lpstech@lpslancer.net](mailto:lpstech@lpslancer.net) or call (269) 428-1400 and arrange pickup of a chromebook device. We will contact you within 24 hours of the email or phone call being received.
- **Technology Support** - If you need support on your device or with an application, please email [lpssupport@lpslancer.net](mailto:lpssupport@lpslancer.net) or call (269) 428-1400. Please provide as much detail in your message as you can. We will give instructions via the ticket system on steps you will need to take to solve the issue. Depending on how busy the ticket system is, it could take up to 24 hours to reply.
- **Internet Access** - If you do not have internet access at home, we have resources to assist as well. Please email [lpssupport@lpslancer.net](mailto:lpssupport@lpslancer.net) or call (269) 428-1400, and we will help set up access.

### **School Closure Food Delivery**

Kudos to our Food Service and Transportation Departments for making and delivering lunch and breakfast beginning on Monday, March 16th. In just the first two days of service, we have served 1300 meals. In weeks to come we will continue having breakfast and lunch available for our students at four different sites at 11:30 a.m. daily, Monday through Friday. These meals are for all children ages 18 and under and are to be taken to your homes to eat.

The sites are:

- Spring Lake Mobile Home Park Community Center
- Shawnee Mobile Home Park Community Center
- Lake Pines Apartments Community Center
- Baroda Estates Mobile Home Park Office Area

Additional sites may be added as needed. If you have questions, please call Pam Greiffendorf at 269-428-1400 x 2965

### **Maintaining Communication During the Closure**

We will continue communication with our staff, students and community through a variety of avenues. Regular updates will be pushed out via email and updated on the District's website. We have created a COVOD-19 link on our website so that information and resources can be found in one place. Questions regarding the closure can be directed to [info@lpslancer.net](mailto:info@lpslancer.net).

All District facilities are closed through April 12. Key staff members will be in the buildings during limited hours to assure continuity of services to our employees and students. We have restricted access to our buildings and outdoor facilities during our closure in an effort to maintain already disinfected areas and discourage opportunities for close personal contact as advised by the CDC. Where feasible, staff are working remotely. If you need to contact a school or district office, please call (269) 428-1400 and leave a detailed message. We will forward the message to the appropriate person who can assist you.

### **Mental Health - Take care of yourselves!**

These are stressful times for all of us. Among the other resources soon to be posted on our website, the following resources below provide meaningful guidance in dealing with stress.

### **Support for families during the Covid-19 closures:**

- [Common Sense Media: \*Help Your Family De-Stress During COVID-19 Uncertainty\*](#)
- [Child Mind Institute: \*Talking to Kids about COVID-19\*](#)
- [Child Mind Institute: \*Supporting Kids During COVID-19: Tips for Nurturing and Protecting Children at Home\*](#)
- [National Assoc.of School Nurses and School Psychologists: \*Talking to Children about COVID-19\*](#)
- [CDC: \*Talking to kids about COVID-19\*](#)
- [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: \*Coping with Stress During an Infectious Disease Outbreak:\*](#)

Thank you for your patience and support as we navigate these uncharted waters. We will continue to provide updates as things evolve.