March 23, 2020

Dear Northern Nation,

Many parents and students have reached out regarding clarity in our grading and assessment practices taking place during this unprecedented school closure due to the coronavirus. As you know, we had only a few days to move our staff and students to an online platform and ensure that students who needed technology were able to get it.

While we are staying connected virtually, we knew that setting up a system like this had the potential to negatively affect our most vulnerable student populations. Therefore, we are relying heavily on direction from our state and federal leaders to guide us in the proper direction in how we continue to support our students online. We know that there are some extremely important topics that we need guidance on, such as:

- Grading, assessment & GPA
- Accommodations and support for students with 504’s & IEP’s
- Course completion/credit & Graduation requirements
- State, AP & IB assessments
- Social-Emotional Support for students All

Skyward grading and GPA’s are frozen as of the last day students were in session; Friday, March 13th. Therefore, during this mandated closure, we are not requiring our teachers to grade students in the traditional sense. However, we are requiring teachers to track the completion of daily online activities for potential future consideration of grading, assessment and/or State compliance requirements. We feel it is necessary that all students participate and complete quality work so that our staff has the opportunity to provide feedback during this time.

As a reminder, we want you to know that your child's counselor, school psychologist and social worker are available for students who might need to talk to someone now. These are very stressful times for our kids. Being asked to stay in our homes by the Governor could intensify our students feelings of isolation and stress. If your child needs to speak to any of our counselors or other mental health specialist please have them reach out through email. Of course many of your students have made wonderful relationships with some of their teachers. They can always reach out to them as well as any of the administrators at any time in need. Here are some email addresses you might want to use:

- School Psychologist - Dave Routledge DaveRoutledge@wlcsd.org
- School Social Worker - Max Albulov MaxAlbulov@wlcsd.org
- Counselor - Pam VanKampen PamelaVanKampen@wlcsd.org
- Counselor - Christine Connell ChristineConnell@wlcsd.org
- Counselor - Kathy Quinn KathyQuinn@wlcsd.org
- Counselor - Michelle Singer MichelleSinger@wlcsd.org

With respect to students with accommodations, our Special Services team is actively engaging with students and communicating with them daily on learning goals and needed supports. They continue to hold IEP and other meetings virtually in order to support continued growth.

The Governor of Michigan has committed to working with local districts to ensure students are able to earn credit and still graduate from high school. If a student chooses not to participate during this mandated school closure, it may be difficult to grant class credit. Therefore it is imperative that all students actively participate daily in their Google Classrooms.

All State, Federal and International assessments are being examined through their respective organizations. Mr. Gutman will provide updates in his weekly messages.

We know that this crisis has left everyone with many more questions than answers. However, we are committed to keeping you continually informed, based on the most recent updates from federal and state leadership.

We are confident that as a resilient school community, we will get through this together.

Yours in education,

Greg Diamond - Principal