



Cusick School District #59

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Dear Panther Families,

With recent events and serious concerns regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) at the forefront of the minds of citizens across our nation and around the globe, we as a school district recognize, and take very seriously, our responsibility to be as informed as possible, and as prepared as possible, as this circumstance evolves. Of our many commitments and priorities, the health, safety and well-being of our students, staff and community are paramount.

Over the past number of weeks we have received regular updates from area health experts, various government entities and our educational partners to learn as much as is known, and to be prepared as possible for the impacts and implications that COVID-19 may have for schools and school districts. Expert information continues to be provided by the public health and medical professionals associated with the Center for Disease Control, the Department of Health, and the local Regional Health District(s) that has jurisdiction in our school district. We are also in continual communication with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Office of the Governor, our educational service district, and monitor area school districts and institutions of higher education in our region and across the state.

As the science of this virus comes into sharper focus, and as its impacts continue to be felt in our state, albeit more significantly in other areas of the state at the current time, we are mindful of the potential for its impact to affect the normal operation of schools. Although we have exercised an abundance of caution with the regular cleaning of our facilities and buses, we know that growing concerns may lead to recommended decisions that could alter our regular operations. **Please be advised that Cusick School District operations will continue to proceed as normal. However, we respect that the Office of the Governor holds emergency powers and authority in circumstances like this, and assuredly that public health agencies share in the authority relative to making decisions about any public school district's continued normal operation.**

With a deep commitment to learning from the experts about the science and impacts of COVID-19, as well as to the health, safety and well-being of our students, staff and the larger community, we are continuing to make plans for a variety of outcomes and for any adjustments that may be needed or mandated. We will continue to keep you informed as we move forward, and we appreciate and value your partnership with us as we travel this new road.

Respectfully,

Don Hawpe
Superintendent
Cusick School District