



Dear ONE Troy,

As we build plans for the continuation of learning in the event we need to close our schools, we are cancelling school this Friday, March 13 for students only. We will use this day to engage all teachers in professional development with our Teaching & Learning and Technology teams. This will allow us to define best practices, tools, basic structures and expectations should we have to implement distance learning in the near future.

This does not mean that we have any cases of COVID-19 (we do not) and it does not mean we are closed beyond this Friday, March 13. It simply means that we are using this day to define our potential practices as well as use the opportunity to perform a deeper clean of our classrooms and schools. In these unprecedented times, however, it would be wise for all parents to have plans in place for childcare should any longer closure prove necessary.

I understand that everyone has an opinion on what should be done, but I ask that you remain patient and try not to spread rumors or panic. We must make decisions based on what is best for more than 13,000 students and 1,500 staff and what seems simple to some or best for your family may not be as easy to implement as you may think on a larger scale. We have been working on coronavirus issues for more than a month and truly believe that being methodical and making data-based decisions for ALL students and staff will serve us better than causing undue alarm to our parents and community.

Good handwashing, staying away from sick people, not touching your face and staying home when you are sick yourself are all still the best ways to prevent this and many other viral illnesses. Other tips are available on our coronavirus response & resource page: <https://www.troy.k12.mi.us/covid-19-coronavirus-response> As always, we will continue to be fully transparent in our process and are committed to keep you updated every step of the way.

We expect to see students in class tomorrow (Thursday) and then wish our families a happy three-day weekend. We are grateful for your willingness to be flexible and patient as we work to ensure the very best learning opportunities for our students.

Thank you for your support, One Troy!