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Dear Community Members,

I want to thank everyone for their support, patience and dedication in helping to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Ionia Public Schools continues to work with local and State officials to provide the most appropriate response and support for our community.

This is a difficult time for adults and our children. I encourage you to use the following resource as a guide to help structure a discussion with your child about COVID-19. The National Association of School Psychologists has produced a website on Talking to Children about COVID-19. It may be accessed at [nasponline.org](http://nasponline.org).

Here are a few points to remember when talking to children:

Remain Calm and Reassuring

Make Yourself Available

Monitor Child's Television Viewing and Social Media

Maintain a Normal Routine to the Extent Possible

Be Honest and accurate

Know the Symptoms of COVID-19

Ionia Public Schools recognizes that the Governor's action to close schools creates a gap in student instruction and a hardship for parents. As a district we want to make sure our students have an opportunity to learn during this time off. We will not require any mandatory work during this time period other than those enrolled in virtual classes and dual enrollment classes.

Given the mandatory school closing, we do not have the resources to deliver our board approved curriculum and instruction. However, it is important to give students home learning opportunities. I am providing a list of possible free websites or resources that may help keep your child intellectually stimulated:

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## Reading:

Squiggle Park [www.squigglepark.com](http://www.squigglepark.com)

MeL (the Michigan eLibrary) [www.mel.org/welcome](http://www.mel.org/welcome)

Brain Pop <https://educators.brainpop.com/school-home-connection-resources/>

ReadTheory [www.readtheory.org](http://www.readtheory.org)

\*parent video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GiKJ4CN5lgc&feature=youtu.be>

Epic Books [www.getepic.com](http://www.getepic.com)

Vocabulary Spelling City [www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com) register with code VSCFree90

Scholastic Learn at Home [www.scholastic.com/learnathome](http://www.scholastic.com/learnathome)

Author Shares <https://www.katemessner.com/read-wonder-and-learn-favorite-authors-illustrators-share-resources-for-learning-anywhere-spring-2020/> IXL [www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com)

Sports Illustrated for Kids <https://www.sikids.com/>

RAZ Kids <https://www.raz-kids.com> username: boyce2020 password: wildcat

ABCmouse.com (PreK-2nd) [www.ABCmouse.com/redeem](http://www.ABCmouse.com/redeem) Redeem Code: SCHOOL4638

ReadingIQ (PreK-6th) [www.ReadingIQ.com/redeem](http://www.ReadingIQ.com/redeem) Redeem Code: SCHOOL4638

Adventure Academy (3rd-8th) [www.AdventureAcademy.com/redeem](http://www.AdventureAcademy.com/redeem)

**Redeem Code: SCHOOL4638**

Sight Words [www.sightwords.com](http://www.sightwords.com)

Pernille Ripp (author readings, etc.) [www.pernilleripp.com](http://www.pernilleripp.com)

Into the Book [www.reading.ecb.org](http://www.reading.ecb.org)

Seussville [www.seussville.com](http://www.seussville.com)

PBS Kids [www.pbskids.org](http://www.pbskids.org)

Starfall [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)

Storyline Online [www.storylineonline.net](http://www.storylineonline.net)

Highlights Kids [www.highlightskids.com](http://www.highlightskids.com)

Read to Me <http://readtomely.com/>

TumbleBooks <https://www.tumblebooks.com/>

Storynory <https://www.storynory.com/>

## Writing:

Typing Club [www.typingclub.com](http://www.typingclub.com)

Classroom Cereal (grammar) <https://www.classroomcereal.com/>

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## Math:

Prodigy [play.prodigygame.com](http://play.prodigygame.com)

Khan Academy [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)

ABC Ya [www.abcya.com](http://www.abcya.com)

Starfall [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)

Xtra Math [www.xtramath.org](http://www.xtramath.org)

IXL [www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com)

Imagine Learning <https://www.imaginelearning.com/at-home>

ABCmouse.com (PreK-2nd) [www.ABCmouse.com/redeem](http://www.ABCmouse.com/redeem) **Redeem Code: SCHOOL4638**

ReadingIQ (PreK-6th) [www.ReadingIQ.com/redeem](http://www.ReadingIQ.com/redeem) **Redeem Code: SCHOOL4638**

Adventure Academy (3rd-8th) [www.AdventureAcademy.com/redeem](http://www.AdventureAcademy.com/redeem)

**Redeem Code: SCHOOL4638**

Fun Brain [www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)

## Science:

Mystery Doug [www.mysterydoug.com](http://www.mysterydoug.com)

Discovery Education <https://www.discoveryeducation.com/coronavirus-response/>

Mystery Science [mysteryscience.com/school-closure-planning](http://mysteryscience.com/school-closure-planning)

Wonderopolis <http://wonderopolis.org/>

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National Geographic Young Explorers <https://ngexplorer.cengage.com/ngyoungexplorer/moreissues.html>

## Social Studies:

History for Kids [www.historyforkids.net](http://www.historyforkids.net)

Newsela <https://newsela.com/> (current events)

National Geographic [www.kids.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.kids.nationalgeographic.com)

Tween Tribune <https://www.tweentribune.com/category/tween56/>.

Time For Kids <https://www.timeforkids.com/>

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## Other:

Multimedia Educational Content <http://classroom.cccstreaming.com/>

Username: cccnytemp Password: streaming

Google Arts and Culture Virtual Field Trips <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/musee-dorsay-paris?hl=en>

Chrome Music Lab <https://musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/>

Minecraft Education Edition <https://education.minecraft.net/>

Music Theory <https://www.musictheory.net/>

Hour of Code <https://hourofcode.com/us>

Great Schools.org [www.greatschools.org](http://www.greatschools.org)

Worksheet Fun.com [www.worksheetfun.com](http://www.worksheetfun.com)

Education.com [www.education.com](http://www.education.com)

DLTK's Crafts for Kids [www.dltk-kids.com](http://www.dltk-kids.com)

Switcheroo Zoo [www.switcheroozoo.com](http://www.switcheroozoo.com)

Oxford Owl <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

Please strive to keep your children engaged in learning while schools remain closed. During this closure window, March 16 to April 5, Ionia Public Schools will be closed to everyone except essential staff. Only Central office will be open, with limited hours. All activities, programs, trips, and events have been cancelled or postponed. This includes all athletic events and practices. There will be no rentals or usage of school property.

During the closure, Ionia Public Schools will continue to provide free breakfast and lunch for students, from 10 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday.

At this time there appears to be more question than answers regarding the length of closure and whether the state will require schools to make up lost instructional days. Once we have clear guidance we will develop plans and communicate to families.

In closing, I would like to thank my staff and other individuals who have stepped up to help feed our children and support our community! Watching our community work together I am reminded of John F. Kennedy's inaugural address where he inspired children and adults to see the importance of civic action and public service.

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His historic words, **“Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country,”** challenged every American to contribute in some way to the public good.

Together, we can strive to make our schools and community a safe place filled with love where students of all ages will learn and prosper.

*Ron Wilson is superintendent of Ionia Public Schools. The views expressed in this column do not necessarily represent the views of Ionia school elected officials, employees or students. You may contact Ron by email at [nimsob321@gmail.com](mailto:nimsob321@gmail.com).*

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