



Educational Services Building

25345 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan 48374

(248) 449-1204 • Fax (248) 449-1219

To Novi Community School District Parents and Community Members:

It is amazing how quickly things can change. Less than a month ago, I was preparing to go with our HOSA students to Traverse City. Our DECA students were just finishing up their state conference in Detroit. Our high school student council had just finished their state conference. I was meeting with aspiring principals from all over the state in a professional development workshop.

And now . . .

Governor Whitmer announced the suspension of in person instruction for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year. That means our school buildings will be closed to staff and students for the rest of this school year.

It requires us to have alternative educational plans for our students. As you know, we have implemented a first phase. Now, we will move to a second phase. Information on what that looks like will be shared as quickly as possible.

The Executive Order is 17 pages long, so we will take time to read and understand it.

We know there are questions. We do not have all the answers at this time, but we will find them and share them with you.

Now that we have this direction, we can find answers to some of our most pressing questions.

- Cleaning lockers
- Retrieving personal items – both staff and student
- Graduation
- Prom
- Spring sports
- Summer school

Together, we will find answers to these and many other questions.

Today, let us take a breath and try to relax. This decision is significant, but we will find ways to navigate through this uncharted territory. We will!

What we need to do is know the facts and share the facts. We cannot participate in the "Guess what I heard . . ." game. We cannot gossip about what the future holds.

It is better to say, "I don't know but I will find out" than it is to share gossip.

We do not know all of the answers right now. We will figure them out in the next few days.

Students who are passionate, empowered, and prepared for their world and their future.

**Dr. Steve M. Matthews, Superintendent of Schools • steven.matthews@novik12.org
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What we do know is that:

- we will continue to provide instruction for our students. How will that change? We have a plan and are working on that right now.
- We will continue to provide food for our community every Tuesday including this coming Tuesday, April 7.
- We will continue to encourage everyone to stay home and stay safe. If you must go out, do not gather in groups.

There is more to come as we find answers to all your questions. If you have questions, email them to George Sipple, george.sipple@novik12.org, Sheila Holly, sheila.holly@novik12.org, and me so we can create a Frequently Asked Question page for everyone.

We will get through this and find ways to help everyone.

Steve
Steve M. Matthews, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Novi Community School District

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