

Dear Parents and Students,

I want to first wish each of you good health and well-being during this challenging time. As we begin our adjustment to Governor Gretchen Whitmer's latest executive order on April 2 to close school buildings for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, I want to assure you that our special education teachers, therapists, and support staff are focused on providing your student(s) with access to programs and services while we are at a distance.

Beginning Tuesday, April 14th, all LCS students will be offered the opportunity to participate in a virtual learning plan ([K-5](#) and [6-12](#)) in order to access academic content and information for the remainder of the school year. For our students who require programs and services that are outlined in either a Section 504, IFSP, or IEP plan, parents can expect to be contacted by their child's case manager and/or service provider to discuss the supplemental support, specialized instruction and access to the learning opportunities that will be made available. Due to the COVID-19 virus, in-person services will not be delivered for the safety of staff and families. If your child receives related services (OT, PT, Speech, etc.) rest assured they will continue to receive these services, just in a different way.

At this time, the districts in Lapeer County will continue to postpone Section 504, IFSP, and IEP meetings until school resumes. Our primary focus is on the health and well-being of your child. We want to ensure that learning is accessible during this time. If your child is due for a new IEP, IFSP, or 504 because we were not able to meet during the mandatory closure, I assure you, we will have a new meeting when school resumes.

While school is not in session, our special education team will be drafting Section 504, IFSP, and IEP plan documents. This will reflect your input, as well as student data prior to the closure. When we return, teams will assess and take data to determine the status of progress on goals and objectives. All evaluations (Initials/Re-Evaluations) are postponed until school resumes. The Michigan Department of Education has provided specific guidance to all local districts across the state. As this continues to evolve, we will monitor and communicate with you. Please keep in contact with our district website and social media posts if you are able.

In closing, we will continue to have hope that we will be together soon and that all of us will be well, safe, and healthy. Please know that each day, we are informed of guidance and direction from our officials at the Michigan Department of Education and our Local Intermediate School District in order to determine the best decision and judgement for the care and welfare of our students and staff. We are facing these challenges together, with you, and we will continue to focus our efforts on our students. I will continue to make myself available to answer any questions and/or listen to concerns you may have.

Stay safe, healthy, and strong.

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