

# Chippewa Hills

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# School District

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I am letting all our Warrior families know that we continue to monitor all of our potential situations as we are made aware of them. We have not had a direct positive case that has impacted any of our buildings as of today, but I know that will change as we move forward. It is inevitable that we will have a positive case in one, if not all, of our buildings over the next few days, weeks and possibly months.

When this does occur we will work cooperatively with the local health departments, both Mecosta and Isabella counties, following their contact tracing protocols and handling each situation as prescribed. Inevitably we will have staff and students who will need to quarantine and we will have to handle that as best we can virtually. Unless there is a medical reason for not working, and it is possible that someone can be ill enough for that to be the case, the expectation is that learning will continue while quarantined. This remains true if it involves an individual, a building or the entire district. These will be virtual days for learning. Our staff will do their best to accommodate this limitation handling it on a case by case situation. Should a medical condition warrant additional time to complete work, that accommodation will be made as our staff works with families involved in covid related events.

I made the statement early on that it is not a matter of “if” this pandemic hits us, but “when.” This remains true and it will impact our staff, students and families of Chippewa Hills. However, we are committed to doing our best to reduce that risk at school and events while practicing the proper protocols to keep everyone safe. The efforts of our staff and students is commendable and has been of great value thus far, we need to stay this course and minimize the impacts that will inevitably occur. Be assured, when this happens, we will be with you through it and do our best to keep things as normalized as possible and ensure academic progression opportunities.

I am strongly encouraging families to be involved with their children ensuring that they are giving their best efforts in school. Whether in person or virtual, students need to give a solid effort to learning during this time or they will be playing catch up for an extended

period. This catch-up can have a life-long impact. I recently read that some students may suffer a year's loss of employment opportunities, thus impacting their lifetime earnings and retirement options due to this pandemic. This situation is tough for everyone, but avoiding the associated work will benefit no one. We do not want to involve outside agencies, including the courts, to have students comply with the Michigan Compulsory Attendance Law which requires children to be in an educational program, so help us make sure that students are working in their classes (in person and virtual) and giving their best effort. Please encourage your students to stay involved and to maximize their learning potential.

Hang in there Warrior families, we will prevail. We will continue to offer our best and only ask that you do the same for us. Work with staff to help your children minimize their pandemic loss and actually push through this gaining academic skills. It may not be the same but we will have some positive takeaways from it as we move forward. Thanks for all you are doing as we keep Chippewa Hills a great place to learn, work and live.