

Board Members:

Barry Barnt  
Jason Bowers  
Jeff Christoff  
Pat Schymanski  
Brenda Stocker



*Inspired by Tradition,  
Educating for Tomorrow*

Elida Local Schools  
Joel Mengerink, Superintendent  
4380 Sunnydale Ave.  
Elida, Ohio 45807  
Phone: 419-331-4155  
Fax: 419-331-1656

---

March 11, 2020

Dear Elida Parents/Guardians and Families:

This message is to keep you informed on the district response to the current global issue regarding the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak. We have been closely monitoring the development and concerns regarding coronavirus. Currently no incidents in our community or school district have been reported that we are aware of. For now, **there are no changes to classroom instruction in the district.**

Beyond the health of our students and staff, we are most concerned about providing the best quality learning environment possible. Time in the classroom with our staff has the greatest impact on student learning. We will continue to do so until it is either unsafe or we are told by someone of higher qualified authority, such as the health department, the governor, etc., to close our doors.

Our custodial staff does an excellent job and have been working hard to take extra steps in cleaning and disinfecting using wipes and electrostatic sprayers that have a lasting effect of up to four weeks. Frequently touched surfaces such as desks, door handles, water fountains, technology, etc. are cleaned daily. Buses will be doing the same going forward, and the cafeteria will continue to follow food safety practices and use approved disinfectants.

District leadership has met and is working hard to make plans in the event we are directed to close. It will be our goal to educate students without having them in our buildings. Our staff has been told to review with students how to access their online accounts in Schoology. This will be the program that is used, if needed, to distribute educational materials. This will allow staff to provide notes, videos, worksheets, surveys, tests, etc. to students and can be completed on a phone, laptop, or computer. We do not want this to be "blizzard bags" of the past, which was just busy work. Teachers will continue to deliver lessons that cover the state standards and benchmarks.

Your support and cooperation in this will be important moving forward. It will be necessary for each parent/guardian to work with your children each day to make sure they are putting in the necessary time to continue learning. This method of educating is not ideal – we know that. But not knowing how long this may last means we all need to support each other.

We put these plans in place knowing that the health and welfare of our students and staff is most important. We would ask the community to help in the effort to minimize the spread of this and other viruses by following the recommendations from the CDC:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Put distance between yourself and other people
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing with a tissue or by using your sleeve or the inside of your elbow
- Stay home if you are sick – and don't return for at least 24 hours of being fever-free without the use of medication

We will keep you updated on any changes to the current curriculum or events in the district via text alert, social media, and district website.

Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Joel Mengerink  
Superintendent

#### **LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Ohio Department of Health - <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/>

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Message from State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Ohio Department of Education - <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Coronavirus>

For more information on the Coronavirus outbreak in Ohio, the Ohio Department of Health has a hotline established – 1-833-427-5634