

# LAKE VILLA COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #41

131 McKinley Avenue Lake Villa, Illinois 60046-8986 www.district41.org Phone: 847/356-2385 Fax: 847/356-2670

March 29, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

These are uncertain and challenging times for education. Being out of school is exceedingly detrimental to our children's learning.

Administrators have been in daily virtual meetings planning for our next steps to ensure continuity of learning. We have also been in constant contact with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to seek clarity and guidelines for school districts. We have also been working with legal counsel and our legislators. To date, we have deployed Chromebooks to all of our K-2 students, opened up Grab and Go lunches for students who need them, and developed an eLearning plan to ensure continuity of instruction.

On Friday night, ISBE issued new guidelines for school districts. They are calling on all districts to have a Remote Learning Plan in place and posted on the district website. This plan must be mutually agreed upon with the teachers' union. Districts, such as ours that have students with issued technology devices, can choose to use their eLearning plan or they can continue to post activities for students (like we are currently doing). Districts without technology have to find ways to continue learning without being physically present - such as creating work packets for students and dropping them off at their homes. You can see the plan from ISBE using this link [Remote Learning ISBE](#).

Our district is choosing to go with our eLearning Plan because it requires staff to advance the curriculum and teach online. We believe this will be much better for our students. They will have virtual interaction with all of their teachers. Teachers will advance the curriculum and move students ahead with learning. Is it ideal? No! There are going to be a lot of hiccups and roadblocks ahead. This is simply the best we can do given our circumstances.

We have never undertaken this type of teaching before. We want to get this right for our students and for our staff. We need time to virtually train

all of our staff. We also need to virtually meet with our teacher union representatives and come to an agreement on the plan. ISBE is allowing school districts five days to get this task accomplished. **Our goal is to have eLearning up and running by April 7th.**

I know you are aware that this is Spring Break and also a weekend. It is odd in this new reality that weekends and breaks have such less meaning than before. I want you to know we have been working around the clock on this and will continue to do so. On Saturday morning, administrators worked on our eLearning Plan and shared this draft with our teachers. We have also opened up a google question/answer doc and we already have 39 questions posted by staff and it has been out there for less than a day.

Please be patient with our district as we work to provide your children with the best possible education that we can, given this horrible crisis. It is our hope that parents and students will be able to get into a routine of eLearning starting on April 7th and that it will carry through as long as we must remain physically out of school.

Please stay safe and stay home. We will get through this crisis and hopefully get back to school at some point. When might that be is still uncertain. It is a call that is now in the hands of Governor Pritzker. In the meantime, we look to take this eLearning journey together with you and I know your children and our teachers will be glad to reconnect in some format.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynette Zimmer". The script is cursive and fluid.

Dr. Lynette Zimmer  
Superintendent

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