

LAKE VILLA COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #41

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April 24, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this message finds you and your families safe and well.

I want to thank all of you for your continued support and patience as we deal with this crisis as a community. Parent and school partnerships have never been more important. I understand how hard it is being a parent and trying to engage your children in the online learning process. I also understand how challenging it is to be an educator and teach remotely while at the same time caring for your own children at home all the while our teachers' own living rooms have turned into makeshift classrooms.

Last week we learned that Governor Pritzker closed all schools for the remainder of the school year. We are saddened by the reality that our school community will not be able to reconvene onsite due to this pandemic crisis. While this is not the ending any of would deliberately choose, please know our district is continuing to put forth our best efforts to reach our students and provide meaningful experiences for them. I have been touched and inspired by the creative and engaging ways our staff is stepping up to make connections with our students and families.

I understand that many of you may have questions regarding Governor Pritzker's extension of remote learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. This document, which is by no means all encompassing, was developed in an effort to answer some of the questions that parents might have regarding this unusual and unprecedented end to the school year. One thing I have personally learned throughout this pandemic planning process is that there are far more questions than answers.

If you have a question that was not asked or answered here, please reach out to me or your building principals. We are here to help and learn. We realize that there are many questions we haven't thought of and you may also have helpful ideas that we could benefit from. This is the perfect time for us, as a community, to pool our collective intelligence to benefit children.

On behalf of our entire Lake Villa 41 family, we thank you for your willingness to partner with us in this journey - stay healthy, stay safe, stay home!

Dr. Lynette Zimmer
Superintendent

(Some) Questions and Answers about Schools Closing for the Remainder of the Year

Will remote learning continue?

Yes, remote learning will continue in its current format through to the end of the year. Our last day of school is Monday, June 1, 2020. That day will be used for a virtual Move Up day so students can meet next year's teachers via google hangout. As we get closer to the end of the year, all students who are registered will receive an invitation to attend that day from next year's teacher.

If my child's Chromebook has a hardware issue, can I get a loaner device?

Yes, each Wednesday, technology staff will be available from 8:00-12:00 pm at Palombi to collect devices that have had a helpdesk ticket submitted and receive a loaner device.

- A Technology Helpdesk email request is **required** for an exchange. Parents can find information about how to make a request here [Technology Support Info](#)
- Collection will be at Palombi Middle School main entrance vestibule
- Park and come inside
- Drop off your Chromebook for repair on designated table and pickup a new Chromebook with your student's name on it from another designated table

Will my child receive grades for the third trimester?

Students will not receive letter grades. According to state guidelines, teachers will provide feedback on remote learning that has taken place since Tuesday, April 7th.

Will my student be promoted to the next grade level?

Yes, all students will be promoted to the next grade level. We realize that there will be significant gaps in learning across all grade levels and subject areas due to school facilities being closed during this crisis. We are developing a plan to assess students' learning progress and loss when students return. It will include multiple forms of assessment including diagnostics, formative assessments, student work and parent feedback. Our goal is ensure that every student is on track for success academically and socio-emotionally by the end of the 2022 school year.

Will there be an honor roll?

Palombi Middle School will have an honor roll. It will include first and second trimester grades.

Will there be an eighth grade graduation?

We recognize the importance of this milestone for our students and their families. While we are very disappointed that we can't be physically together to celebrate this occasion, Dr. Wight is currently working on a plan for a virtual graduation which will take place on May 28th at 7:00 pm.

Will there be an eighth grade dinner dance?

No, sadly this event had to be cancelled due to social distancing restrictions.

Will elementary students receive end of the year awards?

Yes, students in fifth and sixth grade are eligible to obtain awards for the following categories: Illinois Principal Association Student of the Year Awards, Spelling Bee, and President's Education Award. Palombi students will also be eligible for awards. Parents will be notified through email if a child has obtained an award. The students' names and the awards will also be shared on the school's Facebook page. Awards will be available for pick up at a later date.

Will field day take place this spring?

Elementary buildings will be hosting a virtual Field Day. Please look for details for this fun event in the near future.

Will Move Up Day still occur?

Yes, the district is still planning on having a virtual Move Up Day for all registered students although it will be done through Google Meet.

Will I be able to pick up items for my children that were left at school?

Yes, we are working on a procedure that will allow parents to pick up personal items later this year.

When will my student receive their yearbook/pictures?

Yearbooks/pictures will be available for pickup in the summer when students can come in and pick up personal items.

How can I return school district materials such as Chromebooks, library books, band instruments or textbooks if I am not returning as a student next year to the district?

The district is currently working on a process and will be scheduling times/dates for parents to return school materials.

Since school will not take place on-site for the third trimester, will parents receive a discount on school fees?

No. School fees help support educational expenses our district incurs while school is being conducted remotely.

Will the district be conducting summer school?

Yes, the district is planning on having a Remote Learning Summer School Session in June for special education, K-2 Title 1 from Hooper and Martin and English language learners who qualify.

Has there been a decision on whether or not school will take place on-site in the fall?

No decision has been made by the State of Illinois regarding the fall session at this time.

What if I am feeling overwhelmed by the COVID pandemic and feeling the stress this crisis is causing for so many?

This is a highly stressful event. You are not alone, even if we are doing social distancing. Now it is more important than ever to stay connected. Please feel free to reach out to any one of our staff members, if needed. We are here for you and your family. We understand that children are particularly vulnerable at this time. Please see [How to Help My Child in this Crisis](#)

Additionally, Governor Pritzker announced the creation of a new state “source of support,” dubbed Call4Calm, for people who want to get help with mental-health issues arising from the pandemic. Residents can text TALK to 552-020 and the state will put them in touch with a counselor, he said. For that sort of help in Spanish, people can text HABLAR to the same number.

Will Grab and Go lunches continue through the end of the year?

Yes. Families who are experiencing food shortages can also visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids> to locate other sites who offer free meals during this time.

Will I receive a refund for fees that were paid for events that were cancelled?

Any paid fees that were collected for the school events that were cancelled will be applied towards any outstanding fees in the student's account. Any remainder of the fees that are not applied to the student outstanding fees will be refunded to the parents by July 31, 2020.