



PORT WASHINGTON-SAUKVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

We educate all children to reach their greatest potential.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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April 17, 2020

Dear Port Washington-Saukville School District Families:

I am sure you are aware that the Governor and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services have extended the Safer at Home Order to May 26th, and all school buildings are closed for the remainder of the school year. I know there are many disappointed students, especially our seniors not being able to spend time with their friends and participate in the exciting end of the school year activities. We will continue our online instruction and connecting with our students virtually. The staff will continue to do creative things to support and encourage our students from a distance.

At the high school, Eric Burke, Thad Gabrielse, Dan Solórzano and the staff are developing ways to do some of the end of the year activities virtually, especially for our seniors. Mr. Burke is working on a creative way to celebrate graduation and a recognition of our seniors for their many years of hard work, as we wish them well in their future accomplishments. The high school will be providing additional information as these plans begin to take shape.

Also, we are developing plans for students to retrieve any personal items that are still in the buildings. We will be in touch next week in regard to those plans.

As we continue our online learning to make certain our students are prepared for moving on to the next grade level next school year, all of the counseling staff, the psychologists, the teachers, and paraprofessionals will continue to be here to support all of our students. Again, please feel free to contact the counselors or the psychologists if you or your child are in need of assistance. Also, please feel free to contact me as I mentioned in my last letter if you would like to talk with someone. Several parents reached out to me this past week as we talked about the rewards and challenges of raising children, especially in this challenging time.

Yesterday, I sent an email to our staff members, and I would like to share it with you. The email is attached to the end of this letter.

Also, below is a quote from Deputy State Superintendent Michael Thompson and one from the State Superintendent Carolyn Stanford Taylor:

"So while the Safer at Home Order continues to keep buildings closed, it does not close school operations. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) encourages you to continue what you have been doing to provide continuity of learning and school meals." – Michael Thompson

“The closure of school buildings does not mean the end of service to children. The Department of Public Instruction remains committed to supporting schools and districts as they continue to care for their students, advance continuity of learning, and provide meals for students, plan for the remainder of the year, and begin to plan for summer school opportunities and next fall.” – Carolyn Stanford Taylor

Therefore, all across the state, there is a joint and committed effort to help students continue to be engaged and support to our families. Again, I know it can be very challenging, and we are in an unprecedented time with no roadmap or guidebook to follow. Consequently, we are making our own way through this pandemic together as we virtually hug each other and celebrate the unselfish commitment of our front-line medical personnel, first responders, and all our essential “hometown heroes.”

I am here, and we are all here, to help and support one another, as we come out of this pandemic stronger than ever before.

Take care, and best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Weber". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'M' and 'W'.

Michael R. Weber, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

MRW/hb

From: [Weber, Michael](#)
To: [Administrators](#); [DO Staff](#); [DES Staff](#); [LES Staff](#); [PWHS Staff](#); [SES Staff](#); [TJMS Staff](#)
Subject: Today's Governor's Order
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 2:48:35 PM

Hello PWSSD Family,

At approximately 2:00 today, the Governor and DHS announced that the safe at home order will be extended to May 26th and school buildings will remain closed for the remainder of the school year. This, of course, was no surprise to us. We have been discussing this possibility for several weeks. There will be several questions and the need for calm and thoughtful planning by us and everyone else in the state as to what this order means for our students, families, and all of us.

Therefore, please take a deep breath, and try to relax. We have been doing an excellent job together as we supported one another and found creative ways to help our students. During the next few days, the Administrative Council and District Office Leadership Team, with your help and input, will begin to unravel the questions and exactly what the order means to our planning for the remainder of the school year and possible summer school. So, here we go; one positive step at a time, and with each step we take opens the way to the next, and the next, and the next. The end results will be protecting the health of our students and making us stronger as a school district family. Finally, I feel very fortunate and blessed to be working with all of you through this challenging time.

Take Care, and we will be in touch, Mike

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