

Springfield Local Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Charles Sincere
Superintendent

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April 24, 2020

Dear Springfield Local Schools Parents, Guardians and Staff:

Earlier this week, Governor DeWine announced that schools would be closed for the remainder of the school year. While not unexpected, we were still disappointed to learn that we will not be able to welcome our children back into our buildings this school year. We miss the opportunity to work in person with your children each day. We are committed to providing remote learning opportunities for the rest of the school year. Each student's participation in these online lessons is essential to the completion of a successful academic year.

Closure of the schools for the rest of the school year brings with it many questions, mainly that of graduation, prom, and how to get personal belongings back. Rest assured that we are working everyday to answer these questions.

The Ohio Department of Education issued the following statement regarding graduation to district leaders yesterday, stating in part:

"We are asking the education community to come together and honor our students, especially our seniors, in a manner that doesn't pose health risks to anyone. Schools should continue to recognize the importance of restrictions on mass gatherings, and events should be aligned with the Ohio Department of Health's Order. Therefore, school leaders should conduct graduation ceremonies and other recognition events in a remote manner that honors each student in a safe and responsible way, prioritizing the health needs of students, their families and the community."

The rest of the statement and guidance can be found at

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Coronavirus/Graduation-and-Recognition-Ceremonies>

In accordance with this guidance from the Ohio Department of Education, all remaining in-person student gatherings for the 2019-2020 school year, including prom, are cancelled. Springfield Local Schools will be honoring our graduating seniors on May 29, 2020 in a virtual manner. Specific details will be sent closer to the graduation date.

In order to return personal items to students, Springfield staff members will be packaging up items that remain in lockers and desks beginning next week. Seniors have received communication regarding the details of their specific pickup for caps, gowns and personal items, scheduled for Friday, May 1. Building specific distribution plans will be announced the week of May 11th, once the rest of the district's items have been packaged.

Thank you for permitting us the time to properly formulate these plans. Phone calls and emails will be sent out to parents as we approach the date to distribute student's personal items.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Sincere". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Chuck Sincere
Superintendent