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March 20, 2020

Dear DB-TC Students, Parents, Staff, and Community,

Peace to you and your families as we all move through these unprecedented times, and await more information to help us plan for the future. I encourage you to be thinking about your children's response to the stress around Coronavirus and make sure they have opportunities to discuss how they're feeling. Here's a link to a <u>flier</u> that may help you talk with young children about this.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

- The U.S. Department of Education announced today that federal standardized testing requirements are waived for states affected by COVID-19; state officials may apply for this exemption.
- We do not yet know how the April 14 SAT test administration will be impacted.

FOOD SERVICE

- We have supplied over 1,000 meals to our students already, and have even more on order for the coming weeks. Pick-up: Mondays 7:30-1:30.
- If you missed the sign-up and would like to be included in Week 3's food distribution, please contact Mrs. Judy Klutts at 482-5800 x1131 or kluttsj(at)dollarbay.k12.mi.us.

ONLINE OR DISTANCE LEARNING

• The Michigan Department of Ed emailed a memo today clarifying that public schools may not provide online learning at this time, expecting these days to count as normal schooling: "If a school can meet all requirements to transition to virtual learning, would the time during the mandated closure be counted as instructional time? No. There is no mechanism to earn instructional time during a period of mandated school closure."

- There are still many ways students can keep learning during this closure. Your child's teacher(s) may have shared suggestions with you. Here are some great online resources:
 - Khan Academy is an excellent, always-free site with quality instruction for kids across a wide age range (4-18). This is a great one for middle and high school. Be sure to check out the daily schedule suggestions.
 - Scholastic Learn at Home--lots of resources for K-9.
 - Mystery Science--Great science lessons for K-5.
 - <u>Starfall</u>--K-3 reading and math practice.
 - ABC Mouse--K-2--parents can sign up for a free month of access.
 - Online Narrated <u>Stories</u> (stories read to kids).
- Other suggestions for at-home learning:
 - Encourage reading! As much as possible!
 - 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students can print out <u>practice PSAT and SAT</u> tests and take them, then check their scores.
 - o <u>Book It</u>--printable resources for elementary.
 - Household chores! Doing actual work boosts kids' self-confidence because they accomplished something helpful; chores teach life skills and contribute to the family work. Be sure to be positive and encourage your kids when they are helping with chores.

WILL SCHOOL BE CLOSED LONGER?

• We do not yet know if Governor Whitmer will close schools beyond April 3. If this happens, all schools across the state and locally will be in the same position, and we will respond and problem-solve together.

Please remember to wash hands well and often, and follow social distancing practices.

We will continue to keep you informed about changes as they come. Be well!

Sincerely, Mrs. Christina Norland Superintendent-Principal