

Standish-Sterling Community Schools

3789 Wyatt Road
Standish, Michigan 48658

Standish-Sterling Central Jr/Sr High School
Standish-Sterling Central Elementary
Sterling Elementary

Learning For All

March 5, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to share some important information about COVID-19. A lot has been mentioned in the headlines about the Coronavirus. As a school district, we are working closely with our local ISD, Michigan Department of Education, and our local and state health departments to actively monitor any potential cases locally or in Michigan.

Currently, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Michigan. At Standish-Sterling Schools, we are following guidance from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). As part of a collaborative effort with the CDC, we are taking steps to disseminate information about the disease and strategies for preventing the spread of respiratory diseases.

A recent memo from the Michigan Department of Education and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services indicated that, "At this time, the health risk to the general public of Michigan from COVID-19 remains low, but schools and public libraries can take commonsense precautions to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Person-to-person spread of COVID-19 appears to spread via respiratory transmission. Symptoms are similar to those of influenza (e.g., fever, cough, and shortness of breath). The current outbreak is occurring during a time of year when respiratory illnesses from influenza and other viruses are highly prevalent. For schools, we all need to do what we can to keep students and staff engaged in the learning process while mitigating the spread of infections."

Attached with this letter are the following Fact Sheets: • STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS • Handwashing: Keeping Your Family Healthy • What to do if you are sick with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

The CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases. These include:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay at home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe, or a mixture of 2Tbs. bleach in a gallon of water
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

We encourage our students and staff to stay home when they are sick. When at school, we want to remind everyone to use respiratory etiquette (covering our coughs and sneezes with a tissue or their bent arm). Hand hygiene is also very important. Please remember to wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. Always keep your hands away from your nose, mouth, and eyes.

Our custodial staff will continue thorough sanitation efforts such as disinfecting several touch points in each building including door knobs, light switches, sinks, soap dispensers, pencil sharpeners, desk surfaces, etc.

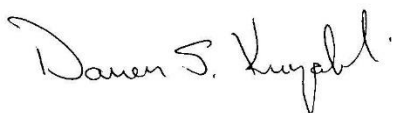
I encourage you to talk with the members of your household about practicing good personal health habits that can help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses. The CDC website also provides guidance for getting your household ready for the Coronavirus.

This letter is not to raise any additional concerns or to sound an alarm on this topic, but to merely let you know that we are working with local health officials to stay informed and share information to help prevent the spread of the disease in our school community. We will continue to collaborate, share information, and review plans with local health officials to protect the school community.

Please review the guidance provided with this message.

Further updates will be provided as the situation changes. Additional resources can be found at <https://www.cmdhd.org/novel-coronavirus> as well as www.michigan.gov/coronavirus and www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

Educationally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darren S. Kroczaleski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a trailing flourish.

Darren S. Kroczaleski
Superintendent