



WEST OTTAWA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

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May 26, 2020

Dear West Ottawa Families:

I hope you had a relaxing Memorial Day weekend. As the end of the school year approaches—our last day is Friday, June 5—I am continually inspired by your resiliency and tireless commitment to your child's education. This school year has been unlike any other but, based on the support I have seen across the community throughout this crisis, I remain confident that we will grow stronger.

West Ottawa Public Schools continues planning for the 2020-21 school year to ensure your child's success. Our priority remains preparing our students to be College, Career and Life Ready. Despite the uncertainties of what next school year may hold, our district is planning for all options and I look forward to sharing more information with you in the coming weeks. In the meantime, I encourage families to work closely with their children and to seek out learning experiences in the summer that will help our students prepare to return to school in August.

You are likely aware of the economic issues across Michigan as a result of the pandemic. With substantial tax revenue shortfalls expected throughout the state, schools are among those that will be hit the hardest. Budget cuts are certainly cause for concern, but I assure you that our district has prepared for a situation like this for many years now, and I am confident that we will be able to weather the coming storm. Of course, this would not have been possible without you.

In the past ten years, West Ottawa Public Schools has developed a sound budget dedicated to student growth and fiscal prudence. As a result, I'm happy to report that in the 2020-21 school year, all student programming will remain the same. With your support of the 2014 and 2019 bonds, our district will be able to devote money to the classroom to continue supporting student outcomes instead of having to dedicate resources to building maintenance. We are grateful and appreciative of your ongoing commitment to our students and the school district.

While our focus remains on providing high-quality education and support services to the families we are privileged to serve, the district continues to follow the direction of the Governor's office—as well as working closely with our local public officials, ISD and neighboring districts—to determine the best course of action for our families and community. We appreciate your patience and are committed to keeping you updated as we progress.

As always, thank you for choosing West Ottawa Public Schools as your child's partner in education.

Sincerely,

Thomas K. Martin
Superintendent of Schools

Preparing Students to be College, Career and Life Ready!