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Dear Students and Parents:

This marks our fourth week of remote learning and the sixth consecutive week that our students have been out of school, separated from their teachers, counselors, coaches and friends. As all of us work through the challenges of our current public health crisis, we are mindful that the distance and loss of connections can be particularly challenging for young people. As students adjust to the confirmation that our schools will be closed for the remainder of the year, if you have any questions or possible concerns about your son or daughter surrounding any matter, we strongly encourage you to reach out and communicate with your child's counselor or a close teacher. We have skilled, caring professionals who are available to help.

### **Implications of Extended School Closure**

We all share in the responsibility and impact of following the public health recommendations. We acknowledge the heartfelt disappointment we all experience related to students losing so many opportunities and experiences. At the same time, officials confirm that the current public health threat to our shared welfare remains critical. In conferring with officials at various levels of education, government and public health, I want to confirm our latest recommendations about several topics.

### **Graduation**

In a communication we released yesterday to seniors and their parents, we will conduct a virtual graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020 on the original date scheduled for the school's graduation. We also have made arrangements to schedule in-person graduation ceremonies to take place in June or July at a large venue, if public health guidance will allow.

### **Prom**

Due to the particular nature of having multiple hundreds of students interacting closely for extended hours, we are unable to hold our prom events this year.

### **Summer School**

We will be unable to offer in-person instruction in any of our summer school courses this year, and we will continue our remote learning within a smaller number of course offerings. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer our popular athletic and activities camps. In our communication next week, more details will be provided about our limited summer school offerings planned for this summer.

### **Remote Learning Survey**

For just over three weeks, District 211's remote learning program has supported students' continued opportunities to learn, engage in meaningful academic activities, and remain connected with their school. We have crafted a very brief survey to learn about student and parent experiences related to remote learning. Students can access the student-specific survey [here](#) or on Schoology. Parents can find their survey [here](#). Please respond to the short survey by **April 26** to provide feedback and input that will help us strengthen our remote learning model. We sincerely appreciate and value your responses.

### **Expansion of Online Payment Service**

Though our schools are closed for the remainder of the current school year, we take heart in planning for our students' return to school next year.

Beginning Friday, May 1, High School District 211 will launch the expansion of the *MySchoolBucks* app, currently used for school meal prepayments, that will enable you to make online payments for any monetary obligations through your computer or mobile device. Use of the *MySchoolBucks* app will be available for the remainder of the current school year.

Beginning in July, the *MySchoolBucks* app will serve as the new online system for payment of school registration fees for the 2020-2021 school year, iPad insurance and repair cost, student parking passes, and more. Parents who do not currently have an account established in the *MySchoolBucks* app are encouraged to create one prior to the registration process beginning on July 1. If you already use *MySchoolBucks* for school lunch and breakfast meal prepayments, simply log in and check out the new features beginning May 1.

Additional information for parents and students about how to establish a new user account and features of the app will be sent next week, while additional information about the registration process for the 2020-2021 school year will be forthcoming in June. **All electronic payments for the 2020-2021 school year will be made using the *MySchoolBucks* app.**

## **D211 Meal Bags Distribution Continues**

With the cancellation of school for the remainder of the school year, the District 211 Food and Nutrition Services Department remains committed to distributing nutritious meals for any student in-need. Meal bags will continue to be available on Thursdays throughout the remainder of school closure, with no-contact, drive-thru pick-up for families at Palatine High School (1111 N. Rohlwing Road in Palatine) and the G.A. McElroy Administration Center (1750 S. Roselle Road in Palatine) from 9:00-11:00 a.m., and at Hoffman Estates High School (1100 W. Higgins Road in Hoffman Estates) from 9:00 a.m. - noon. Additional information is available on the [District 211 website](#), and questions are always welcome by emailing [foodservice@d211.org](mailto:foodservice@d211.org).

## **Next Week's Communication**

Closing our schools for the remainder of the year compels us to address a multitude of operational matters that typically take place each year without notice. To help keep you informed, a sequence of communications spanning the coming weeks will address each of these topics. In our communications next week, we will provide more detailed information about our summer school offerings and how we are arranging for students to pick up possessions that remain in our schools.

With each passing day, we get closer to the time when we can return to our schools and countless important moments. For this day, please know that our teachers, student services personnel and all our staff members are committed to supporting our students. We forge ahead together.

Daniel E. Cates  
Superintendent

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