



**BENTLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
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April 2, 2020

Dear Bentley Families and Staff,

As you are most likely aware, Governor Whitmer has officially closed school to students for instructional purposes for the remainder of the year. This was clearly a difficult decision. Public education in the United States of America is provided because we believe it is essential to have a knowledgeable and skilled workforce and electorate—that idea of government for the people and by the people. And, all of us here, at Bentley, chose to be educators because we believe in this underlying purpose—education is imperative for the good of our country, communities, and families. This new Executive Order (2020-35) allows us flexibility in providing that education for the remainder of this year, which will be dependent, to some degree, on technology.

While our teachers have been reaching out to our students, not all of our students have access to technology. We are working to solve that problem, which is why I sent the survey last Saturday morning. In other cases, students may have access to technology but we do not have accurate contact information in Synergy, most notably, email addresses and phone numbers.

Families, please log in to ParentVue and check your contact information. If it is not correct, please email [dslusarz@bentleyschools.org](mailto:dslusarz@bentleyschools.org) or [kspann@bentleyschools.org](mailto:kspann@bentleyschools.org) with the correct information. If you don't have email but you want to confirm a phone number, please call us at (810) 591-9120 to give us correct information.

I am working with Genesee Intermediate School District to meet the requirements outlined in Executive Order 2020-35. I will share this plan with you as soon as it has been accepted by GISD. We will be delivering instruction, though not face-to-face. This will include a plan for prom as well as transcripts and graduation for seniors. Additionally, we will support, to the best of our ability, Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) for those students who have an IEP. Students who missed the spring PSAT and SAT will have the opportunity to take those college entrance assessments in the fall.

We will continue to provide breakfast and lunch to our students each week for the rest of the year as we have already been doing. Not only does this ensure our students are getting balanced meals and easing the economic burden for our families, if only a little bit, it also provides our students and our staff a chance to see each other, if only for a moment. I can tell you, every staff member who has helped distribute food and all who have helped to pack it are so grateful for the opportunity to serve our students in this way, as I know you have appreciated our service.

The governor made it clear that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading Law will not be enforced this year. That said, we always work hard to help our students grow in every discipline, most especially literacy and mathematics. We did this before the law and we will continue to do that—it is our charge and what we believe in. Along similar lines, the remainder of the spring assessments (MSTEP,

WIDA, NWEA, and MI-Access) have been waived for this year. Further, we are close to having a calendar ready for the 2020-2021 school year and plan to begin **before** Labor Day as we did this year.

Rest assured, we are working hard to define how to meet our students' educational needs for the rest of this year. The Bentley staff are compassionate, hardworking, and committed, and we care deeply about all of our students and families. We will get through this tumultuous time and we will be stronger and better because of it—that is what learning does for us and, to be sure, this is a period of intense learning for us all!

With gratitude for each of you—students, families, and staff,



Kristy Spann

Superintendent