



ORCHARD VIEW SCHOOLS
35 S. SHERIDAN DRIVE MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49442
www.orchardview.org

Dear Parents and Staff,

November 12, 2020

This is a tough decision and we don't take the responsibility lightly. Out of an abundance of caution, **Effective Monday, November 16th, all face-to-face learning will transition to remote learning.** At a minimum, we will continue this plan through Thanksgiving break. We will assess the possibility to transition back to face-to-face learning prior to Monday, November 30th.

Keep in mind, students enrolled in our 100% virtual learning program will continue to do so without changes.

Please know, this decision was not made without careful considerations for everyone in our community. We fully understand the challenges it poses. I appreciate all of the input I have received from staff, our community, and health leadership in our county, region and State. The following items were considered carefully prior to making this decision:

- According to hospital leadership, our local hospital system is at a critical state and quickly approaching/surpassing maximum capacity
- The number of positives and quarantine are on the rise in our District and within our community, exponentially. The increase is alarming and concerning.
- The probable cases of students and staff who are in quarantine that are likely positive or may become positive is significant.
- We are no longer able to safely and adequately sustain face-to-face staffing, and we have a critical shortage of subs.
- The testing rate for Muskegon County has exploded beyond the 5% threshold for closing schools as we're now over 20% of tests resulting in a positive case.
- In consultation with Public Health - Muskegon County, our trend data supports the decision to shift to remote learning. Our hospitals are overwhelmed.

Students should plan to attend school on Friday, November 13th to learn what to expect from their classroom teacher(s) except Middle School students. Draft schedules of what to expect for your learner were shared last week, and our technology and food service teams are busy making plan to support student learning in a remote setting.

This plan is designed to allow us to focus on teaching and learning, rather than COVID and contact tracing. **Please be reminded that wearing a mask, following 6' physical distancing measures, eliminating social gatherings, and frequently washing your hands is essential.** Ultimately, our actions and response as a greater community will determine when we are able to safely return to face-to-face learning!

Building contact information is provided below, should you have additional questions.

Sincerely, 

Jim Nielsen,
Superintendent