May 20, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Kent ISD staff continue to miss your children daily. The sense of joy and connection during daily interactions is missing for all of us during this school shutdown. Typically, the end of the school year is a time of celebration of the growth and progress students have made. It is a time to reflect and appreciate the time that we have spent together. Students look forward to the fun end of the year activities and are also excited for summer. This year has not been typical, and the end of the school year will not be the same. Speaking with staff, there is a sense of gratitude for the time we were able to spend together and eager anticipation for the day when we will be in school again. We cannot have our typical end of the year celebrations and we will plan on celebrating once again when we are all back together.

We recently received an email communication from the Michigan Department of Education that in-person instruction is suspended until July 31, 2020. At this time, we remain hopeful that in-person instruction will be able to start in August 2020. We have developed calendars for next school year, which your child’s administrator/principal will be communicating to you soon.

As we are anticipating that we will be back in school in August, we recognize that school will look different. We are proactively ordering personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks and gloves. We are looking at what schools in other countries have done in their reopening to keep all students and staff safe. There is currently a Kent County task force that involves the health department and school officials to develop guidelines and recommendations for the reopening. The health and safety of students and staff is our primary concern in planning for next school year.

Throughout the summer, please continue to stay connected to school staff and your school administrators. We will have major updates on our website, www.kentisd.org/center-programs. Please feel free to contact us at any time with questions and/or concerns.

Stay Healthy and Stay Connected,
Paul Dymowski
Director of Center Programs