

Herscher Community Unit School District #2

Dr. Richard S. Decman, Superintendent
Shelly Parsons, Special Services Director
Pete Falk, Curriculum Director

April 20, 2020

Dear Herscher CUSD No. 2 School Community,

I hope this message finds you and your families safe and well. On Friday afternoon, April 17th, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker announced that remote learning in Illinois will be extended through the end of the 2019-20 school year.

Although in-person learning has been suspended for the remainder of the year, at Herscher CUSD No. 2, I assure you our entire staff remains committed to learning and engaging with all students through remote learning through the conclusion of the school year (May 29th). In addition to this, we will re-start the availability of Grab-n-Go free lunches on April 27th from 11:30-1pm at BGS, LMS and at HHS/HIS.

Like you, we are saddened by the reality that our school community will not be able to reconvene in person this school year due to this public health crisis. So many of you have worked so hard to learn and grow in both the classroom and in extracurricular activities that today's announcement may feel like a step back.

However, the final chapter of this school year hasn't been written yet. These past few weeks have proven our school community is more resilient, more capable and more compassionate than maybe what we previously realized. I'm confident our collective strength will shine through during the remainder of the school year, and we will emerge even stronger.

Having said that, Friday's announcement will result in significant and multiple scheduling changes in our district. Specifically, I want to address the following issues/questions:

- **When can I clean out my locker or retrieve my belongings and/or return books back to the school?**
Our plan is to have a limited number of students and/or parents per day invited back to their respective school during the first two weeks of June to clean out their locker, retrieve their belongings and return their textbooks and other District property. (Specific information and directions will come directly from your student's Principal shortly after the Shelter-in-Place is removed by the Governor).
- **Will students be able to pick-up free lunches in our District again?**
Yes. We will return to preparing free lunches for pick-up from 11:30-1:00 pm at BGS, LMS and HHS/HIS beginning on April 27th and concluding on May 29th (No lunch service on Saturdays/Sundays and holidays).
- **Will attendance be taken for the rest of the year for Remote Instruction?**
Yes. Attendance will continue to be taken for all Remote Instruction Days until the end of school (May 29).

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What happens if a student does not complete their Remote Instruction assignments?

All students should have the opportunity to redo, make up or try again to complete, show progress or attempt to complete work assigned prior to the remote/e-Learning period (if applicable). Due to the unique situation we are currently in, the end of the quarter/semester, students will receive a "Pass" or "Incomplete" (opposed to a letter grade) (2nd through 12th grade) or a number grade (PK through 1st). At the high school, weighted grades, class rank and GPA will be suspended for the second semester. Thus, failure to complete assignments may result in a student receiving an "Incomplete".

■ What happens if a student receives an "Incomplete" for a course on their report card?

Below are the steps that will be followed for students that have received an "Incomplete" for the Spring 2020 semester.

Grade Range	Actions
K-8	Grade level promotion for a student that receives an "Incomplete" will be handled on an individual basis and determined on the best interest of the student. Upon return to school, all students that received an "Incomplete" will take a diagnostic test to determine if intervention services are needed to support student learning.
9-12	A student that receives an "Incomplete" will not receive credit for the course. The student will be allowed the opportunity to enroll in the course (if offered) next school year.

■ Will there be any learning resources available to assist my child over the summer?

Yes. Prior to the end of the school year the district will share a variety of resources that parents and students can use over the summer to help retain what they have learned as well as extend student learning throughout the summer.

■ What about Summer Athletic Camps, Band Camp and other summer activities? Are they being allowed to be held?

At this time we have not made a decision about any summer events. As soon as we are able to make a decision about these events, we will notify our school community.

■ What about Student Registration for next year? Are we still doing this?

Yes. Student registration will continue just like the past several years. Specifically, on-line student registration will begin on May 1st. A School Messenger message will be sent on April 30th to give parents instructions on how to retrieve their respective registration code from InfoSnap which is needed to complete registration. Questions regarding on-line registration can be sent to Laura Forneris at fornerisl@hcusd2.org

■ Are there any mental health services that the District can provide my son/daughter?

Yes. See the following link for a list of providers in the area.
<https://www.hcusd2.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/Parent/Student%20Information%7CMental%20Health%20Resources> In addition, our District social workers have created a few newsletters that address some potential mental health issues. These newsletters can be accessed by using the same link as above.

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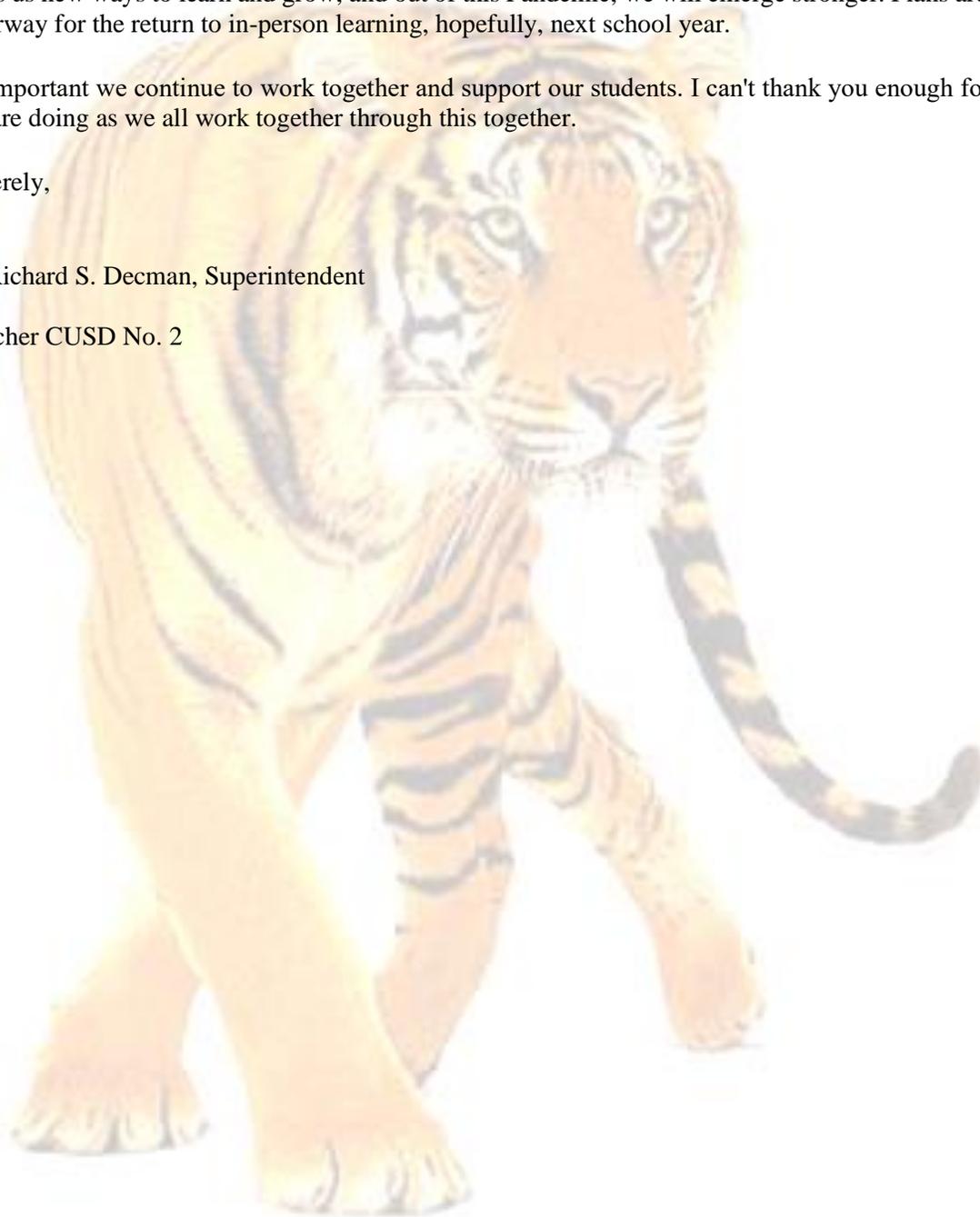
I know this is not the school year that any of us imagined, but I want to thank you for your patience and understanding as we have dealt with this unprecedented situation together. This period of Remote Learning offers us new ways to learn and grow, and out of this Pandemic, we will emerge stronger. Plans are already underway for the return to in-person learning, hopefully, next school year.

It's important we continue to work together and support our students. I can't thank you enough for all that you are doing as we all work together through this together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard S. Decman, Superintendent

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