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Woodley Leadership Academy • 1300 Malzahn Street • Saginaw, MI 48602 • (989) 717.4390

**Woodley Leadership Academy will be closed beginning Friday, March 13 and will remain closed until Sunday, April 12.** With confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Michigan, residents are being urged by the Governor's office to take all necessary precautions to prepare and keep themselves and their families safe. The State is making preparations to limit the spread and impact of COVID-19.

#### **State Assessments**

Michigan students will not have to take the M-STEP and other state-mandated assessments after U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced Friday students impacted by school closures due to the coronavirus pandemic can bypass standardized testing for the 2019-20 school year.

The federal education department will grant a waiver to any state that is unable to assess its students due to the ongoing national emergency, providing relief from federally mandated testing requirements for this school year.

#### **Food Services**

**BREAKFAST AND LUNCH WILL BE CONTINUED THROUGH APRIL 13, MONDAY, WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY 10-12p.m.** Children 18 and younger eat free and children do not need to be present or enrolled at WLA to receive the meals. Please spread the word to your family and friends.

#### **Building Cleaning**

Our custodial services will institute a cleaning plan that includes complete disinfection of all surfaces and heavy cleaning. Custodians will also target floor care, power washing, and detail work generally scheduled for summer. *Should direction from the state around workplace attendance change, these plans may be altered.*

#### **Social Distancing and Hygiene Practices**

We want to stress the seriousness of this situation. There are things we can do as a community to limit the spread of COVID-19 and help keep those most vulnerable safer. *If you think you are sick or someone you care for is sick, visit the [CDC website](#) for directions on diagnosis and care.* You can also visit the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services website](#) for details around COVID-19, including information on [Community Mitigation Strategies](#). [Practice social distancing when you can, and review and exercise the prevention methods](#) below and in the linked PDF.

The best prevention for COVID-19, and any other virus, such as the cold or flu, is to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid handshakes
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Remain 6 feet from your peers.
- If you are sick, please stay home and avoid contact with others.

Additionally, families and individuals at home can:

- Learn about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Symptoms include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.
- If you have respiratory symptoms, **STAY HOME WHEN YOU ARE SICK.** Call your health care provider's office in advance of your visit.
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, like doorknobs, keyboards, cell phones, and light switches.
- Communicate and reinforce best practices for washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes.
- Be prepared if there is COVID-19 in your household or a disruption of daily activities in your community. For example, maintain a supply of medications, food, and other essentials in your house. Consider alternative shopping options such as curbside pickups or online deliveries.
- Access services as much as possible online or by phone.

## **Addressing Childhood Anxiety**

While we want to make sure that our families are informed and prepared, we know that this has affected our students in varying ways. Here are some steps you can take at home to address their concerns:

1. Correct misinformation for them.
2. Focus on what kids can do to keep themselves healthy.
3. Manage your own catastrophic thinking.
4. Don't dismiss their fears. Acknowledge that fear is healthy, and help them manage it appropriately.
5. Preview changes or disruptions that may happen, like school closures.

## **Resources for families:**

- [Talking to Children about COVID-19](#) - Parent Resource from NASP
- [Corona Virus Resources](#) - ASCA
- [Talking to Teens and Tweens About CoronaVirus](#) - NYTimes
- [Talking to Kids About The Corona Virus](#) - ChildMind
- [Just For Kids: A Comic Exploring The New Coronavirus](#) - NPR
- [PBS offers videos and resources](#)
- [Helping children cope with stress](#) - World Health Organization

## **Prevent the spread!**

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- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Remain 6 feet from your peers.
- If you are sick, please stay home and avoid contact with others.