



Ipswich Public Schools

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April 5, 2020

Good Evening,

This is Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools for the Ipswich Public Schools. I want to provide you with updated information regarding our school closure due to the COVID-19 Outbreak. I hope that this message finds you all healthy and safe. These are certainly trying and unprecedented times. We are all trying our best to make sense of this situation for our own families as well as our students.

Since March 13, when the schools first closed, our teachers have been providing enrichment activities and opportunities for our students and families to complete. Parents and teachers alike have been trying to settle into new routines and manage working from home while juggling the continued education of our kids. The feedback from a recent survey suggests that parents and guardians have been satisfied with the educational opportunities that have been provided. With the Governor extending the school closure until at least May 1 (return to school date of May 4), the administrators and teachers have been working over the past week to develop a more robust plan for interacting with and educating your children. We all understand that it is impossible to replicate the learning that occurs daily in our active classrooms, but we realize we can do more.

This week, the Ipswich Public Schools will transition to a Remote Learning Model. Final plans are being made to launch a new website for parents along with expectations for students at each level, Elementary, Middle, and High School. In developing this remote learning model, we took into consideration the ages of the students, capacity and access to technology, feedback from the survey, and an acknowledgement of the current crisis situation we are all dealing with. The Remote Learning Model is designed to engage all students in learning, build on previously taught skills, and at the high school level, work toward course completion.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your patience and continued support as we all deal with this crisis situation. Thank you to the teachers and staff for quickly learning how to adjust their curriculum, build resources, and transition to remote learning. Thank you to the parents who are having to juggle working at home while at the same time keeping your children engaged in their education. We're all in this together and we will get through it.

Thank you and stay healthy. If you have any questions, please email me at bblake@ipsk12.net.