

Good afternoon parents, this is Vaughn White, superintendent of Hesperia Community Schools with a brief message.

Parents, I am calling to remind you that tomorrow, June 4 we will be distributing meals and locker contents as well as collecting packets and Chromebooks from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the bell tower, middle and high school locations. The process will be similar with families staying in their cars. However, you may see a number of teachers helping and waving to students as items are traded.

Parents, this has been a challenging 3 months with many changes. Who would have ever predicted that a pandemic would separate us in person, but let us remember that we are not separated in Panther spirit as we move toward a new school year next fall.

So what will school look like in the fall? That is the question everyone wants the answer to and no one can provide with certainty. It is my sincere hope that we will progress out of this pandemic in a direction that leads us to a traditional 5 day a week schedule. However, other models could include distance learning full time or a mix of in-person and distance learning. We just have to see how things progress this summer.

There are committees at the state level, county level, and even set up within our own school district to help plan for the opening. Our local committee has teachers, support staff, administrators, board, and parents as members. This way we can assure the best possible educational experience for your children.

Parents, we have another significant challenge. Due to the pandemic, our economy has slowed creating an incredible shortfall in school funding. Currently, all Michigan schools are anticipating significant budget cuts. Without backfill dollars from the federal government, there will have to be some very difficult decisions moving forward this school year. Please feel free to contact your U.S. Senators and Representatives about the importance of supporting schools during this challenging time.

On a happier note, beginning Monday, students may begin once again to attend work-outs and practices outside of the school building. This must be done under the guidelines of the Michigan High School Athletic Association for social distancing and disinfecting. Also, if the Governor continues to open up the state, we may be able to modify commencement to a more open ceremony. The graduation committee will be monitoring and adjusting as we go.

Parents, once again, thank you for your patience and understanding through these difficult times. We appreciate you and miss your children. Have a safe and healthy summer.