



April 17, 2020

Dear SBCSC families,

As we continue our distance learning and remote operations, I again want to express my gratitude to all teachers, staff and parents who are meeting the extraordinary challenge of providing engaging and useful instruction to our students. I know it's not easy; thank you, all.

Though there are still many uncertainties regarding the next academic year scheduling, we have decided the last day of eLearning for students and teachers will be **Wednesday, May 20**. We are grateful for the teacher input and conversation around our *Continuous Learning Plan*. The following Monday, May 25, is Memorial Day, and May 26, 27, and 28 will be professional learning teacher work days. We'll use our past Fridays and June 1, 2, and 3 as allowable waiver days. I hope to have informational updates about summer school within the next week or so.

Graduation for our seniors and how we will honor the Class of 2020 is a critical issue we're working on now. Watching our students receive their diplomas is my favorite part of the year. I'm working closely with the Governor's Office and the Department of Health to determine our best options for graduation. I met with a group of seniors last week and sent a survey to all seniors to gather input and generate ideas for what form graduation will take this year. Our options include--but are not limited to--a virtual ceremony this June streaming online only; a virtual ceremony this June followed by an in-person ceremony in August (if possible); or a televised ceremony in June on WNDU Channel 16 for each school, in which graduates will be named and honored as their photo is posted on the television screen. We've also asked for their ideas for other types of graduation events.

Our schedule for the fall is still in limbo, as are our summer programs and athletic events. These are dependent on when the Governor lifts the shelter in place and social distancing orders; again, as soon as we have answers to those questions, we will share them with you.

As a reminder, there is still room in our magnet school programs, particularly at the elementary level, so please explore the options we offer -- ranging from fine arts, Montessori, technology and science. There's a link to magnet applications on the homepage of our website. Kindergarten registration also is open, and registration can be found on our website as well.

Many of you may know that we've adapted our regular, in-person events, like "Talks with Todd," School Board meetings, and referendum informational meetings so they are now being held virtually--via either Facebook Live or streaming on YouTube. The response to those virtual meetings has been tremendous. We had nearly 2,000 viewers for Tuesday's "Talks with Todd," and nearly as many for our recent board meeting. More than 4,000 viewers watched last night's

referendum informational meeting. We plan to add a staff-only "Talks with Todd" option soon since the current remote circumstances generate a lot of questions. We're also planning to increase the frequency of community-wide "Talks with Todd" for the same reason. Schedules for both of those events will be announced early next week.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that there are important items on the June 2 ballot: Increased teacher salaries to retain our hardworking teachers, school building safety upgrades, and ensuring our students are either workforce or college ready. The success of South Bend is linked to the success of South Bend Community Schools. Please vote and let your voice be heard.

It's quick and easy to obtain an absentee ballot and send in your vote: [Click here to request your absentee ballot and vote by mail.](#)

Have a safe, restful weekend, and again, thank you for all you do for South Bend Schools.

Please stay healthy --



C. Todd Cummings, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools