



April 2, 2020

Dear Black River Families,

Governor Whitmer announced her plans for Michigan's public schools earlier today. This was the first official announcement regarding the expectations for our school and our students. This letter is the beginning of a lot of information you will be receiving from Black River and its teachers. These communications are intended to give you specific details about what we all need to do to correctly implement the orders issued by our state.

We at Black River have been making plans for how to best reach all of our students remotely since the closure first began nearly three weeks ago. While we were waiting, we were also preparing. The first part of our preparation has to do with the survey that all families should have received last evening by email from IC Messenger. This is regarding technology and internet connectivity in your home. This survey is also posted on our website: <https://www.blackriverpublicschool.org/> It is essential that all families fill out this survey as soon as possible so we know how we can help those who need access to technology. Again, please help us to help all of our kids by completing that short survey as soon as you are able.

Governor Whitmer has given us much guidance relating to students being promoted to the next grade and our seniors being able to graduate. Even with this new guidance, there are still many questions. Some of these will be general and easily answered while others will need to be looked at on an individual basis. Different situations exist for all of our students so we will take the time to be sure individuals get the attention they need to provide accurate answers.

This letter is not intended to lay out our entire plan for each student and teacher. The general questions and answers affecting our whole community will be posted to our website. Resources to help kids and families cope in this difficult time are also located there. For more specific details about what your child's academic expectations are, you should refer to the communications that will be coming from their specific teachers. This will eliminate unnecessary emails and parents and students needing to sort through all of those.

While communications from the school will be ongoing, you should expect more specific and detailed information from your child's teachers on the morning of April 13, 2020. These emails will give clarity regarding both support and specific academic work. **In the meantime, please check to see that your contact information is correct using the following link:**  
<https://www.blackriverpublicschool.org/News/2349>

It is our goal to make this difficult time the best that it can be. I have no doubt that we will continue to provide the great care, support and attention that you have grown to expect from Black River.

We Are BR!!!

Shannon Brunink  
Head of School