



Families and staff,

This morning Governor Reynolds announced a closure of schools for the duration of the 2019-20 academic year. The finality of the decision is both sobering and one I support wholeheartedly. Safety must be our first priority. Let me begin by saying I speak for our Ballard staff in saying to students and parents I am so sorry for the events and milestones that will not occur this spring for all of our students. For each family there are important and unique experiences with which the COVID-19 pandemic is interfering. Collectively, the list is very long. At risk of minimizing so many of these, I want to lift up the loss for our seniors. I assure you, we will do as much as we can to make the best of this for you. Most of you have been with us for years and we have watched you grow up. Your situation is especially heart wrenching.

Our staff has been working hard to build our capacity to provide quality voluntary learning to this point. We will continue to improve how we deliver instruction this year and prepare for next year. We are unwavering in that commitment.

With this announcement, we have a number of decisions to make and information to communicate in the weeks ahead. Know that we will work with our staff and Board of Education to communicate as quickly as possible. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to ask questions. The Ballard team will remain accessible and do our best to provide answers.

In closing, we think of you dozens of times every day, we send our very best wishes knowing that challenges come to our households in different ways, and, above all, we want to be here for you and provide support in these challenging times. Stay safe and take care, everyone.

Ottie