

FEARLESS  THINKERS
SINCE 1885

April 10, 2020

Dear Yellow Springs Families & Staff,

And here we are, still. My hope is that two weeks into our official “stay-at-home” order, you are safe and healthy. At this time, I do not have any new updates from Gov. DeWine or the Ohio Department of Education regarding the remainder of the school year. I will continue to update you with any information I receive as we plan for our future.

These are trying times. I can only imagine how difficult it must be for all of you to manage work and children at home every day. As we complete the first week of our revised non-traditional instruction/distance learning plan, I hope this new experience has gone well for both you and your children. I have been invited into each online classroom and have seen the work produced by students as a reflection of their experiences. I am so impressed. I am fully aware of the incredible talent we have in our Yellow Springs students! I urge you to check out our website (<http://www.ysschools.org/nti-non-traditional-instruction>) for links to our new instructional plan and tools. Please continue to reach out to your child’s teacher, principal or me should you have any questions.

I want to give a shout out to the teachers and support staff at Yellow Springs Schools. This is an amazing and dedicated group! This new model has been a heavy lift for teachers as we transitioned to what we hope is a more engaging, interdisciplinary platform in delivering instruction. But true to form, not only have they lifted, they have done it well. As a district team, we have also been engaging in serious discussions around grading, access, and equity. I believe that we have landed on something that recognizes the uniqueness of our situation, engages students in materials that have a broad application, and ensures our top priority is the well-being—both physical and emotional—of our students, staff, and families.

As we reflect on our unique experiences thus far during this pandemic, I ask that if you find yourself in the position to do so, please donate to the Yellow Springs Community Food Pantry. They have been instrumental in providing dinners to some of our school families over the past four weeks. Their services are much needed and appreciated during these uncertain times. Details can be found at <https://www.yscf.org/food-relief>.

Thank you for caretaking your most precious resource and ours: the district’s children. Remember to wash your hands regularly and wear a mask in public. Breathe. Smile. Laugh. Stay courageous. We will come out of the other side of this safely together.

Sincerely,



Dr. Terri L. Holden
Superintendent