



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Friday, March 20, 2020

Dear YCSD families and staff,

As we continue to monitor developments and guidance regarding COVID-19, I want to reiterate our commitment to keeping our families and staff informed. Staff have been on numerous calls and webinars with state and national agencies throughout this week. At this time, no additional changes have been recommended regarding school closings and calendar adjustments.

State Testing

Superintendent of Public Instruction James Lane has directed VDOE staff to apply for a statewide waiver from federal requirements related to mandated high-stakes testing, based on new information from the federal government. Further, Dr. Lane shared that state leaders are exploring all options to cancel state-required Standards of Learning assessments for the year.

We appreciate Dr. Lane’s efforts immensely, as we agree that our students and staff need to be focused on staying healthy and learning how to adjust to the new extended learning plans. Neither students nor teachers need to be focused on high-stakes tests during this difficult time.

Third Quarter Grading

We have had many questions regarding the extended learning plans for students and the impact of school closings on third quarter grades. In accordance with recommendations from VDOE, student work issued during the closing is in place to ensure continuity of learning but will not be graded.

Students are encouraged to complete all work so that teachers can identify areas in which additional support is needed. I will be working with staff to identify options regarding existing third quarter grades and actions we can take so that no students are adversely affected.

Student & Family Support

We also know this can be a stressful situation for all, especially for children who may not be able to express their anxiety or stress which could lead to misunderstandings and further stress on a family. While not all children react to stress in the same manner, changes in behavior can be indicators of fear and stress.

The YCSD school counseling team is prepared to support student needs including but not limited to: academic curriculum, personal/social needs, and career readiness standards. School counselors are holding office hours each weekday, and are available by phone or email, should parents or students have any questions. Additionally, resources from the CDC and other organizations are available on the division website to help our families manage their well-being.

EMBRACE	•	ENGAGE	•	EMPOWER
Mark J. Shafer District 1		Brett Higginbotham District 2		Laurel M. Garrelts District 3
				James E. Richardson District 4
				Sean P. Myatt District 5

As this continues to be an evolving situation, you can depend on communication at the division level each week, with updates from schools or departments more frequently if needed. Questions, comments, and suggestions sent through the [askYCSD](#) account will continue to be reviewed and addressed in the Frequently Asked Questions and Resources page on the division [website](#) or in our weekly communications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victor D. Shandor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V'.

Victor Shandor, Ed.D.
Division Superintendent

