



Wisconsin Heights School District
Jordan Sinz, District Administrator
10173 US Highway 14
Mazomanie, WI 53560
(608) 767-2595
(608) 767-3579 FAX
jsinz@wisheights.k12.wi.us

May 11th, 2020

Dear Representative Erpenbach,

I hope this letter finds you, your family, and your colleagues well. I would like to provide you with an update from the Wisconsin Heights School District as we address the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. On March 17th, our district mobilized an offsite/online learning plan to continue to educate the 785 students that attend Wisconsin Heights. This form of learning started on March 30th, 2020, and continues to serve all students. We will maintain this effort through the end of our regularly scheduled school calendar (May 22nd for seniors and June 5th for all other students). I am proud of our staff response, our students, and their families. All have approached this challenge with a can-do attitude and a mutual appreciation.
2. The food service department in our district has responded to the challenge of providing food to our students in an extraordinary fashion. During our first week of providing meals (March 16th), we served approximately 100 meals. By April 6th, that number was up to 1,074 meals, and since the week of April 13th we have served over 1,500 meals each week. Over 22% of our students are participating in this program.
3. Access to reliable internet connections and the availability of enough computing devices have proved to be significant challenges as our instruction moved offsite. The district has purchased 30 Wi-Fi hotspots that have been distributed to students in need. Additionally, we have checked out over 150 computing devices (Chromebook and I-pads) to families that needed devices for student use.
4. Communication and, therefore, student engagement have proved to be challenging during the last six weeks of offsite instruction. Our staff has tried to utilize a variety of methods – email, Zoom meetings, phone calls, and even old-fashioned letters via the postal service to connect with all students. Despite these efforts, we have seen a small population of students that have not engaged deeply in continued learning. We are empathetic to the challenges they and their families are facing. Our staff will continue to reach out to support all learners.
5. Our staff has grown tremendously in their ability to make this learning environment a two-way interaction. Staff members are running live lectures, meetings, discussions, etc., with both individuals and groups of students. The collective ability to use instructional technology has taken an enormous step forward, and we will be better as a result.

As we move ahead, I welcome your calls or emails so that I can explain our work and answer any questions you may have. I will also provide you with additional updates. Certainly, much work remains as we finish the school year, begin the summer school session, and prepare for the start of the new school year this fall.

Sincerely,

Jordan Sinz – District Administrator
Wisconsin Heights School District

Wisconsin Heights MS/HS
Elizabeth Dostal, Principal
10173 US Highway 14
Mazomanie, WI 53560
(608) 767-2586
(608) 767-2062 FAX
edostal@wisheights.k12.wi.us

Wisconsin Heights MS/HS
Andrew Pickett, Assistant Principal
10173 US Highway 14
Mazomanie, WI 53560
(608) 767-2586
(608) 767-2062 FAX
apickett@wisheights.k12.wi.us

Mazomanie Elementary
Dale Green, Principal
314 Anne Street
Mazomanie, WI 53560
(608) 767-2737
(608) 767-2103 FAX
dgreen@wisheights.k12.wi.us

Black Earth Elementary
Scott Moore, Principal
1133 Center Street
Black Earth, WI 53515
(608) 767-2251
(608) 767-2545 FAX
smoore@wisheights.k12.wi.us