



Brimley Area Schools

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Brimley, MI 49715

Phone Numbers	
Elementary	906-248-3217
High School	906-248-3218
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June 4, 2020

RE: Update

Dear Brimley Area Schools Family:

Can you feel it, taste it, smell it? We have spring and early summer in the air. Leaves are on the trees, flowers are coming up, grass is being mowed, and oh yes, the end of the school year is at hand. We are entering the final week of the 2019-2020 school year and what a year it has been! When we held our open house in the fall and began the year, never in my wildest dreams would I have thought we would end the school year learning from a distance and in the midst of a world-wide pandemic. However, I believe we will be stronger when we emerge on the other side.

Words do not adequately express my deep gratitude for how our communities have come together during these difficult times. We have had random donations from strangers to purchase food; we have had protective masks made for our school; we have had items purchased for next year that will help with the safety and wellbeing of our students; we have had cards, phone calls, emails, and Face Book posts showing love, support and gratitude for the work being done. Just today we had a large donation of food for needy families and the list goes on. Thank you for being such a huge part in the lives of our students and our school community.

Last week we sent out registration information for next year. Thank you for the quick responses thus far. We are receiving several each day. If you have not already done so, please make sure to send in that information as it is necessary for planning purposes for next school year.

We will be sending out a summer meal program letter next week. The letter will be sent to all families who qualify for free or reduced meals. If you are interested in this program, please make sure to notify the central office so we can properly plan for ordering food and delivery. On June 8th, meals will be delivered along with summer packets for the elementary school children.

As you have probably heard, Michigan and much of the nation are in a huge budget crisis. With all the business closures, there is a lack of revenue to support programs and one major program is

education. Michigan schools are looking at a \$1.25 billion shortfall for this current year and another shortfall of \$ 1.14 billion for next school year. These cuts are going to have a significant impact on schools and how we educate students. I have sent letters to our United States Senators and Representative, along with letters to our state legislators and the governor expressing my concern for fully funding education. We must fund education for our students as they are our future.

We are in the planning stages for how school might look for next school year. There are CDC guidelines for how to open schools and I am sure there will be guidelines from our state and local health experts as well. We will be looking at these guidelines and making our plans accordingly. Many of these guidelines will require changes in law and that must take place at the legislative level. As soon as we get these guidelines, we will have a better handle on how to proceed. There will be more information to come on next school year.

Finally, thank you for all you have done for your children and our school community during this past school year. Please enjoy summer with family and friends and we hope to see you in the fall.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Reattoir". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brian Reattoir, Ed.S.
Superintendent of Schools