



Illinois School for the Deaf

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope this message finds you and your families safe and well. Friday, Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker announced that remote learning in Illinois will be extended through the end of the 2019-20 school year.

Although in-person learning has been suspended for the remainder of the year, at ISD, I assure you our entire staff remains committed to learning and engaging with all students through remote learning.

Like you, we are saddened by the reality that our school community will not be able to reconvene in person this school year due to this public health crisis. So many of you have worked so hard to learn and grow in both the classroom and in extracurricular activities that Friday's announcement may feel like a step back.

However, the final chapter of this school year hasn't been written yet. These past few weeks have proven our school community is more resilient, more capable and more compassionate than maybe what we previously realized. I'm confident our collective strength will shine through during the remainder of the school year, and we will emerge even stronger.

Having said that, Friday's announcement will result in significant and multiple scheduling changes in our school. As this announcement about the end of the school year was recently made by Governor Pritzker, it will take us a few days to sort out the many schedule details that are on the books, including promotion, graduation, etc. Please be patient as administrators work to get information to you in the next several weeks.

Unfortunately, prom and graduation will not take place this year. However, the principal and I are working on some sort of virtual graduation for our seniors. Again, it may take some time to pull together, but we will get back to you soon.

I know this is not the school year that any of us imagined, but I want to thank you for your patience and understanding as we have dealt with this unprecedented situation together. This period of Remote Learning offers us new ways to learn and grow, and out of this Pandemic, we will emerge stronger. Plans will be underway soon for the return to in-person learning next school year.

It's important we continue to work together and support our students. I can't thank you enough for all that you are doing as we all work together through this.

Sincerely,

Julee M. Nist
Superintendent

A residential school for students who are deaf and hard of hearing operated by
the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services.

*Accredited by the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf and
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.*