

April 29, 2020

Update from Dr. Derek Arrowood, Superintendent, Hamilton Heights School Corporation

As we approach the first day of May, it's hard not to think about the impact this pandemic has had on our students, families, staff, and community and how the end of the school year was supposed to be. Yet, this pandemic has also served as a wellspring of innovation and creativity which has resulted in people of all ages coming together in inspiring ways all while being physically apart.

Below are two links I share with the hope they will brighten your day as much as they did mine. The first is a video created by Hamilton Heights 6th grader Emma Trees and her mother, Meghan, who is also a 5th grade teacher at Hamilton Heights Elementary School. ([Emma's Video](#))

Hamilton Heights Middle School Principal Bret Bailey recently shared a powerful message with his CIESC Professional Learning Connect colleagues. ([Mr. Bailey's Video](#))

Next week is National Teacher Appreciation Week. It's in these challenging times that we truly recognize and appreciate the pivotal role our educators play in our children's lives—inspiring a lifelong love of learning and discovery and making a difference in their well-being and long-term success. With the abrupt end to the physical school year, I can't say enough about what our teachers have done to continue impactful education with virtual classrooms and at home learning lessons. Their immense work and commitment is moving beyond words. Please join us in taking this opportunity to honor and thank our local educators and show them how important they are to our community.

Speaking of teachers, the Indiana Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) is offering a student/parent support hotline at no charge. This is an excellent resource for students and parents to use for additional academic assistance during the final weeks of school. The hotline is being staffed by IRTA members. See attached flyer for more information.

I attended a virtual meeting with the Superintendents in Hamilton County on Tuesday. The topic of conversation was what the start of the 2020-21 school year may look like. We don't have a definitive answer at this point. Re-entry will depend on future directives given from the governor's office as well as state and local health officials. A decision is expected in mid-May. We'll keep you posted.

Thank you for staying the course and working to finish the end of this year strong!
#WeAreHuskies

