



## Benzie County Central Schools

March 13, 2020

To our Benzie Central Families:

As you have likely heard by now, our state government is closing all school buildings for the next three weeks due to the COVID-19 situation. This situation has been evolving extremely rapidly and will likely continue to do so in the immediate future. To be clear, this means that Benzie Central Schools will be closed beginning officially on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and will be scheduled to re-open on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. During that time, ALL school related activities will be cancelled. This includes scheduled travel or trips, athletic contests and practices, and all curricular and extra-curricular activities.

We recognize that these steps, while necessary and mandatory, will likely also result in hardships for many of our families. We are currently working with state and regional resources to see what we can do to help mitigate those hardships.

Our custodial and business office staff will continue to operate at this time to work on keeping base operations going. Custodial staff will be using this closure as an opportunity to both engage in deep cleaning of our buildings and ensure that we have safe and hygienic facilities to return to when the shutdown is lifted and we are permitted to reopen.

Instructional staff are working to prepare for a potential extended closure as well. We are committed to ensuring that learning does not stop in the midst of a closure. While we cannot replicate what we do on a daily basis in an online environment or with take home packets, we certainly can make sure that we are making efforts to ensure that our kids are learning!

Benzie Central's strength lies in our community. This is a great place to live where people support each other in hard times. We have struggles ahead, no doubt, but I have every confidence that we can pull together to make the best of a difficult situation. Let's all do our best to recognize one another's struggles, help each other wherever possible, and keep a #OneBenzie spirit of cooperation and support.

More communication will be forthcoming as the situation continues to develop. If you have not already, please follow us on social media – *Benzie County Central Schools District facebook page* and watch your email for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Olson'.

Matthew Olson

Superintendent