



**YPSILANTI COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
**1885 Packard Road**  
**Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

November 8, 2021

Dear YCS Families,

Here at YCS, we consider the health, safety, and wellbeing of our students and staff our top priorities. As we have been in communication with our staff about the importance of Compassion Resilience this year, two central themes have been at the top of everyone's mind, physical and mental wellness.

We all know that we are in a continuous learning process regarding the mitigation of COVID-19, and as we enter the fall flu season, we are being careful to ensure that we are all using the recommended steps to keep everyone safe. Our outstanding custodial and maintenance staff have been going above and beyond to ensure our buildings are in the best condition possible.

In addition, we realize that staff have been stepping up to fill in the gaps due to staffing shortages in all areas in the district and we are incredibly grateful for their collaboration. This has resulted in our amazing YCS staff experiencing an unprecedented level of fatigue. We are holding Compassion Resilience Circles in every building. We are utilizing the book *Onward* by Elena Aguilar with our administrators to intentionally address our staff and students' social, emotional needs.

As a result of careful review and consideration of the physical and mental health needs, the District Administration has chosen to address this situation by taking the following proactive measures. On Monday, November 22, and Tuesday, November 23, 2021, all YCS School buildings will be closed for DEEP CLEANING in a phased approach that will continue through Winter Break. Staff who are not working for this special project and not providing services to our partner districts will not be required to work. We chose these days as we were previously scheduled to be closed from November 24th to 26th and hope that this will be less intrusive to our families. We acknowledge that this change in the calendar may cause some families inconvenience and we apologize in advance. Yet, as we consider the physical and mental health and safety of all of our students and staff, we believe this pause is necessary at this critical time, which will allow us to come back from Thanksgiving break strong.

As you know, we at YCS take great pride in being responsive to the needs of our students, families, and staff. As a result, we believe in the *"both/and"* approach to responding when working *"with"* our students, staff, families, and the community. As a district, we work hard to provide our students with as many learning opportunities, additional learning time, and educational experiences that we can support.

Because each student has a technology device and most students have access to the internet, we will provide our students with the tools they need to do independent work during these two days, if so

desired. Our staff will work with our students to ensure that they have what they need to be successful during these two days.

In addition, our students will receive a (2 day) food parcel provided to them on Friday, November 19, 2021, at the end of the school day. Please know that we take the honor and responsibility of educating your students very seriously. It takes all of us working together to ensure healthy learning environments.

Thank you for your continuous support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross

Superintendent of Schools