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**MATTHEW HELGERSON**  
Superintendent of Schools  
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Dear Families of JHS Band Winnipeg Travelers,

You are all aware of the significant disruption the novel (new) COVID-19 virus is causing in our daily activities. As a district we have been monitoring recommendations and information being distributed by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and Center for Disease Control (CDC), all of whom have been taking the lead in how school districts are responding to this pandemic. In addition, we've spoken directly with the travel company multiple times regarding our concerns and questions.

The school district has made the difficult decision to cancel the trip. We realize that there may be financial implications for our attendees, but there are just too many risks. We are concerned about a potential border closure, the inability to practice social distancing while attending the events and concerts and the possibility of a student or chaperone becoming ill away from home and family supports. We have expressed our strong desire to receive a full refund from the travel company, but as of right now, we are unsure if that will occur. The travel company shared with us that they will work with their business partners to refund some or all of the money, or to provide a travel voucher for future travel. However, based on what we know right now, there are no guarantees that any type of refund or voucher will be given, but that is something we will continue to push for in light of this global pandemic.

If you have specific questions, please reach out to Mr. Burnside or Mr. Vizenor.

Thank you for your understanding and patience during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Matthew Helgerson  
Superintendent

## OUR MISSION

Inspire a caring community to ignite learning, innovation, and success for all!