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4/14/2020

Dear WPSD Students and Parents/Caregivers,

As you aware, on April 9, 2020, Governor Wolf and PA Secretary of Education Rivera announced that all K-12 schools on Pennsylvania will remain closed for the rest of the 2019-20 school year. Today's communication outlines the tentative plan for moving forward, with the understanding that as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, it may be necessary to revisit some of these topics. Our goal is to provide as much information as possible and utilize all available resources to support our students and parents/caregivers through this pandemic.

**Did the Governor's announcement mean that school is over now?**

No! Although the announcement was made that schools are closed for the remainder of the school year, that does not mean education has stopped. WPSD will continue working remotely from home to provide planned instruction in an online learning environment through the end of the school year.

**Will my child receive grades for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter?**

This unprecedented time requires schools to think differently about how we assess students. During the 4th Marking Period student work will be assessed using an established rubric. Students will have the opportunity to earn a maximum of nine (9) points based mostly on effort and engagement (maximum of 6 points) and accuracy in assignments (maximum of 3 points). Each week teachers will record the points earned in PowerSchool. The recording of this weekly grade serves three distinct purposes:

1. Recording these scores in PowerSchool will allow parents/caregivers to monitor student participation in the required assignments and provide ongoing feedback about whether students are on-track in meeting expectations.
2. At the end of the marking period, these points will be used to determine whether students met or did not meet expectations for each course. The overall score, as well as any teacher anecdotal data will be used to rate students as "Met Expectations" or "Incomplete". This will be recorded on the student's report card as an "E" or an "I". No numeric grades will be reported and an explanation of these grades will be noted on the report card. This rating will not be factored into students' GPA.
3. Students who were failing a course at the time that the third marking period ended and who meet expectations, may earn points to be applied to their third marking period grade, allowing them to earn a passing grade for the course.

At the elementary level, teachers will report to parents/caregivers weekly. They will summarize the contacts they have had with students and parents, identify any supports that students need for success, and provide feedback on work completion and progress toward learning objectives. At the end of the year, teachers will work with parents and administrators to consider the total of student work for the year in determining placement for the following year.

**What will happen to final course grades and how will GPA's be affected at the High School?**

Grades for the first three marking periods will be finalized after April 17th and will be factored into student GPAs at the high school. Final Exams at the high school are canceled for this year.

**Will spring sports occur?**

No. PIAA released an announcement on April 9, 2020, stating that winter sports championships and all spring sports have been cancelled.

**What is the plan for graduation?**

As of today, the District will hold the June 4, 2020, date for Commencement. We are hopeful that the social distancing guidelines may be reduced at that time. However, the Administration is also being proactive in developing an alternative

plan for graduation in the event that we are unable to gather on June 4<sup>th</sup>. The District will do everything possible to honor the seniors with a Commencement ceremony.

**Will spring concerts, academic and athletic banquets, prom, and other events still occur?**

All spring choral and instrumental concerts are cancelled for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. The administration and faculty are reviewing all scheduled recognition events to determine how we can honor our students' accomplishments. The District will do everything possible to honor the students and provide them with their awards. The Administration is keeping all options open at this time regarding the prom. As with graduation, we will make every attempt to hold this year's prom. More information will be forthcoming based on the social distancing guidelines that are provided to us.

**Will the food distribution continue now that schools are closed?**

Yes. The District will continue to operate its lunch distribution every Monday through the end of the school year. Children under the age of 18 can continue to sign-up to participate by filling out the [lunch survey](#). You will be able to choose either Blain or New Bloomfield Elementary as your pick-up location. Please remember that students must be present to receive lunch.

The Backpack Program distribution will continue and distribution will coincide with lunch distribution. Students who normally pick-up their backpacks at Carroll Elementary will be asked to go to New Bloomfield Elementary to receive them. If you no longer wish to be part of the school lunch or Backpack Program, please contact your child's building principal or email [emergencysupport@westperry.org](mailto:emergencysupport@westperry.org).

**Why has the District restricted access to the grounds surrounding the school buildings?**

The intent of the closure is to limit the people gathering in order to minimize the potential spread of the Coronavirus. The recommendation has been made to include all facilities, because the district cannot control the use of these facilities while the closure is in effect. This will help limit gatherings of groups at our facilities to help prevent the spread of the virus.

**What if my child has something in their locker or desk that is needed now?**

Contact your child's building principal to arrange for retrieval of critical need items. Once the Governor's stay-at-home order is lifted, the District will establish a schedule whereby students can come back to clean out their lockers and/or desks for the year. The District will also establish a plan for return of borrowed technology.

**Where can I view updates regarding the school closure and the WPSD's Continuity of Education (COE) plan?**

All updates regarding the [COVID-19](#) closure and the [COE Plan](#) will be done on the Frequently Asked Pages that are located on the district website.

We will continue to communicate with our community because we are all in this together. Please continue to make the best out of this unfortunate situation knowing that we are here for you and will help in any way possible. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Sincerely,



David M. Zula  
Superintendent of Schools  
West Perry School District