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Dear WPSD Students and Parents/Caregivers,

I hope you are all staying safe and healthy. Know that we are thinking about you during these trying times. As the end of the year approaches, I would like to take a moment and thank the school board, staff, and students for pulling together and making remote learning work during these unprecedented times. Most of all, I would like to thank all the parents/caregivers. We have asked you to become teachers along with being parents! You have been very successful. Thank you! Educating students is a team effort and these past ten weeks has definitely proved that we have a great team in the WPSD community!

**A few updates for the end of the school year:**

**Classroom Closeouts for the 2019/2020 School Year:** Teachers have been working over the past three weeks to prepare their classrooms for summer cleaning. Students at the MS/HS will be choosing a time to come in to retrieve any personal items over the next two weeks. Elementary students will be provided instructions by their building principal on when the buildings will be open for retrieval of items. Textbooks, Chromebooks, etc. that need to be returned to the school should be brought back when retrieving personal items.

**Continuity of Education:** The last assignments for the 2019/2020 school year will be posted on May 29<sup>th</sup>. All assignments are due by 4PM on Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Final Grades:** At the end of the marking period, a student's total achieved points will be added 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. Students' GPA was calculated based off of the first three marking periods.

**Meal Distribution:** We will have our two final meal distributions over the next two weeks. Since we are observing Memorial Day, food distribution will occur on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. Our final meal distribution will be Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. We would like to thank Metz Culinary Management, WPSD cafeteria staff, administration, and all the volunteers who have helped support the food distribution program during the school closure. We cannot thank you enough!

**Senior Activities:** Since March 13<sup>th</sup>, the life of a senior has changed drastically. Many experiences were lost and opportunities to create memories will never happen. One event that has never changed was the fact that the Class of 2020 will receive their diplomas and be graduates of the WPSD at the end of the 2019/2020 school year!

**Graduation:** At this point, we anticipate that we will be "Yellow" in June. Consequently, we will have a drive through/walk through ceremony on June 4, 2020, with a rain date of June 5, 2020. We will postpone the traditional ceremony until July 15, 2020 with a rain date of July 16, 2020, with the hope of being in "Green". Details of the June 4<sup>th</sup> ceremony have been provided by HS Administration.

**Baccalaureate:** A virtual Baccalaureate Ceremony under the direction of Youth Pastor Mark Foor will be posted on the WPHS website for those students and families who are interested in viewing this event.

**Senior Awards:** Senior academic and extracurricular awards will be announced virtually. A link will be posted on the WPHS website for those students and families who are interested in viewing this event. Seniors will be able to pick up their awards as they leave the stadium on June 4, 2020 after receiving their diploma.

**PIAA:** The latest guidance from PIAA regarding athletics has not changed. Consequently, all athletics will not be allowed until July 1<sup>st</sup> at the earliest. The District will await new guidance from PIAA before making any further decisions.

### **An update for the 2020/2021 school year:**

Education Secretary Pedro Rivera recently stated that he expects students to go back to school in the fall. Additionally, he stated that the Pennsylvania Department of Education will provide guidance to prepare administration, teachers, staff, and students to return to school buildings. While districts across the state wait for this guidance, we are all tasked with starting to develop plans to prepare for the opening of schools in August.

The WPSD is hopeful that the 2020/2021 school year can return to normal. The ideal setting is to have students in a brick and mortar setting with teachers providing instruction face to face to all students. However, PDE and Governor Wolf's guidance will impact our final decision.

Until we get appropriate guidance from state officials, the Administrative team is working on several plans that will allow students to meet all of the state's educational standards no matter what the setting may look like. These plans are completely different than the Continuity of Education that the students are experiencing at the current time. The administrative team is developing flexible plans to educate regardless of the setting and to address guidance by health officials. These plans included blended instruction and remote learning.

**Blended Instruction** – A combination of Brick and Mortar and Remote Learning instruction. This form of instruction will be implemented along with Social Distancing guidelines.

**100% Remote Learning** – As a result of schools being closed, students would be working from home. Coursework would include everyday instruction, assignments, and assessments.

Please know that the district is constantly looking for ways to welcome all the students back into the buildings. Our number one goal is to offer every student an education that will help them be as successful as possible in the future. Know that we miss you very much. The district will continue to update you as information becomes available.

Be safe and healthy!



David M. Zula  
Superintendent of Schools  
West Perry School District