



WEST PERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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8/31/2020

Dear WPSD Students and Parents/Guardians,

On Monday, August 24, 2020, the WPSD welcomed students back to our classrooms. After one week of school, we have been so proud of our students and staff. Changes were implemented that were included in our School Board approved "Health and Safety Plan." These changes have been an adjustment for everyone, but through continued implementation, we have been able to keep our schools open. We are monitoring the COVID-19 data for Pennsylvania, Perry County, and West Perry School District. This data has been used in conjunction with the [Pennsylvania Department of Education's Closing Guidelines](#), which classify counties as "low," "moderate," and "high" based on the number of active COVID cases.

The [COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System](#) data shows that Perry County is in a "moderate" stage for the second week in a row. This stage, as recommended by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, means that we will need to continue an A/B schedule. This schedule will remain in effect through September 25<sup>th</sup>. The District will evaluate all available data over the next few weeks to determine when and whether we can return to a full, in-person schedule.

To continue providing the best education for our 1,822 students that are face-to-face and the 390 students that are participating in WPVA, the district will implement Act 80 ½ days on Fridays in September starting on September 11<sup>th</sup>. The [September Instructional Schedule](#) includes the plan through September 25<sup>th</sup>. The Act 80 ½ days will be utilized for the following reasons:

- To allow the custodial staff an opportunity to thoroughly clean high uses spaces.
- To allow staff to be better prepared using new tools that were provided to them for the 20/21 school year. Digital providers are struggling to provide adequate support of these new tools because most schools across the country are implementing new technologies this year.
- To allow staff an opportunity to make meaningful and rigorous lessons and activities for the students while they are working from home.
- To allow staff an opportunity to set-up virtual office hours, as needed, for students that may need additional help.

We are committed to offering face-to-face instruction throughout the school year. To accomplish this type of instruction we have to be aware of the needs of the students and staff, while paying particular attention to the health and safety of all. We strongly encourage you to model the health and safety changes in your home, and encourage others in the community by wearing facial coverings and practicing social distancing so we can continue offering Face-to-face instruction. Our staff and students did an amazing job last week and the District wants those successes to continue.

We thank you in advance for your understanding and patience during this extremely difficult time. Additional information will be forthcoming from the District and Building Administrators regarding requirements for at-home learning.

Sincerely,

David M. Zula  
Superintendent of Schools