



March 22, 2020

Dear WCASD Parents,

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and support as our school district works furiously to shift to an online learning model. We still don't know how long schools in PA will be closed, but most districts are planning for extended closures.

As you likely know, our teachers will provide some learning materials on Monday, March 23 (tomorrow) but will use the rest of this coming week for training and planning (the exception is our high school AP teachers who may be able to continue with new instruction.) **If we are closed past March 27, we will provide instruction of new materials beginning March 30.** To be sensitive to our teachers, many of whom are also at home without child care, we are incorporating days 'off' for students so that teachers can have time to plan. [Please click here to view the schedule that will take us through Friday, April 17.](#) We'll be sure to update you as things evolve. We expect our last student day to be Friday, June 5. The PA Department of Education has waived the 180-day requirement.

A few important notes:

1. We will continue food distribution for lower income families and are working this week to provide iPads and internet access for students who need it. We're communicating directly with those families.
2. We recognize there's a significant difference between elementary and secondary remote learning and reasonable expectations. The younger the student, the harder it is to teach them remotely. We're working with our staff this week to provide them with resources/training, but also flexibility to provide instruction and maintain important connections. We will be recording as many video lessons as possible so that you can help your child access them at a time that is manageable for you.
3. Attendance: We are working on a plan to take attendance. We'll communicate it ASAP.
4. Grading: We will focus on moving our **high school** students, with leniency, toward the next grade level and toward meeting graduation requirements. These are official transcripts that move onto college; We recognize that most high schools in the nation are facing the same dilemma. More direction will be coming from principals in the coming days.
At the middle level: principals will communicate directly about this in the coming days.
At elementary: We are not assigning grades during remote learning. We still encourage teachers to provide feedback when possible.

5. At the elementary level, we will not be distributing supplemental packets the way we did last week. All work will come from teachers. We will provide a list of educational sites offering free membership.
6. PSSA's and Keystone exams are canceled for 2020. We know there are a lot of questions about proms, graduations, etc. We simply don't have the answers at this time.
7. If your child is struggling, please reach out to your teacher, principal, or school counselor.
8. If you have a problem with technology and need tech help, you can contact our help desk at: 484-266-1050 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. (times may vary slightly due to staff availability.) You can also email: helpdesk@wcasd.net or one2one@wcasd.net Our help desk is servicing teachers, students, and parents. We also encourage you to reach out to your tech-savvy neighbors who might be able to assist! This is a time when we all need to lean on each other.
9. It's incredibly difficult to shift a 12,000-student school district in a matter of days to providing exclusively online education. We appreciate your patience as we work through this together! We know our teacher/student connections and the relationships that have been built are very important, and we'll do all we can to maintain them in this incredible time.

These are truly incredible times. I'm so proud of our staff who have been working around the clock to adjust, adapt, and get ready to reach out to our students with new instruction. I speak for all of our staff when I say that we really do love and value our students. We are here for them!

We will get through this together.

Stay tuned for more information!

Dr. Jim Scanlon, Superintendent