



March 30, 2020

Dear Parents,

I'm sure today was not without its challenges. Schoology, SeeSaw, and Zoom crashed several times, students were getting accustomed to learning new material online, and many parents fumbled their way through helping their children with school work. If your house is anything like mine, your kids tried to sneak in some games when they were supposed to be doing school work on their devices.

Unfortunately, I have to deliver the news that Governor Wolf has ordered all Pennsylvania schools closed until further notice. While it's not what anyone had hoped for, it's not surprising given the path of the virus and trends across the country.

We know you probably have a lot of questions. We don't know how long we'll be closed, but we'll start to address issues like graduation as we get closer to those important dates.

We *fully* recognize this new online model is not a substitute for our regular instruction. Please give online learning a few days and give all of us a chance to work through the kinks. Then, we'll solicit opinions and ideas about how we can make improvements.

Our teachers have been working very hard to get up to speed on how we can deliver instruction online. Kudos to every staff member who has worked late to learn new programs, who's helped their colleagues work their way through the technology, who has delivered iPads to students, assisted teachers with instructional delivery, donated materials to Chester County Hospital, prepared and distributed meals to families in need, and answered a lot of emails and questions about how we will move forward. A special thanks also to our help desk today that was flooded as we all struggled to get online with Day One of new instruction.

Thank you to our parents – whether you are working in the health care industry, law enforcement, or other essential services where your own health may be at risk. Many of our parents are at home caring for young children while also trying to work and assist our school-aged children with school assignments. It is not an easy task. Thanks for your patience and grace as we find our way through.

Finally, thank you to our students – for your optimism, energy, and patience. We understand that it's very hard for teens, in particular, to be separated from their friends for extended periods of time. Don't forget that our counselors are available if you need to reach out.

Here's our calendar through June 5 :

<https://www.wcasd.net/cms/lib/PA02203541/Centricity/Domain/6153/March%20-June%202020%20Online%20Learning%20Calendar.pdf>

We do not have graduation on this calendar, and we don't yet know our plans for summer school. Again, we'll address these issues as we get closer. With a little luck, we'll be out of quarantine sooner than we expect, and life can proceed.

I hope your family is doing well!

Dr. Jim Scanlon, Superintendent