



March 24, 2020

COVID-19 Letter #7: Communication, Closure Extension, School Meals & Technology Reminders

Dear WTPS Staff and Families,

In a previous communication I mentioned that circumstances are changing daily, even minute to minute. As these changes occur, as I anticipate they will continue to do so for the foreseeable future, I want to ensure that our staff, students, and families stay informed.

The District is making every effort to relay information and changes in multiple formats to make the communication convenient and easily accessible to you. All letters to families are sent via:

- email with PDF attachments (please note: these emails are now being sent with an embedded link to the attachment, in the event the PDF has difficulty opening);
- our [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information and Links Page](#), along with other useful links and resources;
- WTPS' Facebook and Twitter; and,
- depending on the level of importance, communication is often posted on the District's Splash Page (the pop-up window that appears when you first visit www.wtps.org); or,
- a phone call and/or text is sent.

Communication to staff is accomplished by way of Postmaster email or by building via the principal. Please continue to stay connected with us as we are regularly updating information for you. If you have any questions specific to the closure due to COVID-19, please feel free to email us at feedback@wtps.org or COVID19info@wtps.org.

As previously mentioned, the Governor has ordered that all schools will remain closed until further notice. In compliance with this order, and in consultation with the Gloucester County Office of Emergency Management and my colleagues in neighboring Gloucester County school districts, we are extending the District's closure **until further notice**. Remote instruction will continue during this time and continue until the Governor's Executive Order is lifted.

Our teaching staff has engaged fully in the mission of remote learning. They are committed to educating our students while they simultaneously tend to the needs of their own families during this very trying time. We ask all involved to continue to exercise patience, caring, and kindness as we navigate this road together. Please keep the lines of communication open. I know that if we continue to talk, we can work out whatever problems we are encountering.

The District will continue to provide food services for qualifying families at the following locations, days, and times:

Location(s)	Time	Days
9/10 High School Bells Elementary Birches Elementary Hurffville Elementary Thomas Jefferson Elementary Whitman Elementary Wedgwood Elementary Birches Apartment Complex The Willows at County House	12:00-2:00 pm	Mondays (2 days of meals) Wednesdays (3 days of meals)
Millstream Apartment Complex	12:00-12:45 pm	
Washington Way Apartment Complex - Laundry Building	1:00-2:00 pm	

We have contacted all families qualifying for school meals via phone and email. If you were not contacted and should have been, please contact Fserv2@wtps.org, or call 856-589-6644, ext. 6525. We will gladly assist you.

Again, if there are any families that still do not have the appropriate technology device, I urge you to send an email to jkonecki@wtps.org or ggerber@wtps.org, or call 856-589-8500, ext. 7313 to leave a detailed message with contact information; someone from IT will reach out to you. We are still waiting for an update on the arrival of hotspots we ordered that were, unfortunately, recalled due to defect. We will contact those families needing internet as soon as we have these devices available. In the meantime, we ask all families needing internet to review current offers from internet providers to determine if there is a feasible option. We have some recommendations on our [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information and Links Page](#). Alternately, we ask any family with Comcast/Xfinity internet service to consider turning on your [Xfinity WiFi Home Hotspot](#) for your neighbors that may need the internet during these difficult times. Comcast is opening this access to non-Comcast subscribers during this time of need. I realize that this is a “big ask,” but I would be grateful if you would consider this temporary measure to help us help our students. If you are willing to provide this assistance, please feel free to contact our Technology Department at 856-589-8500, ext. 7313 or jkonecki@wtps.org, and we will be happy to provide you guidance on the safest way to accomplish this. We thank you wholeheartedly for your consideration.

It is necessary to note that our technology team has been going above and beyond in our mission to assist not just our families and students, but also to continue to support all District staff. They are commended for their tireless efforts in making the District successful as we not only provide remote instruction, but also run all District functions remotely. Thank you, IT department!

Please continue to stay positive, healthy and strong. Though it is, at times, difficult to play these many roles that we are not accustomed to playing (at least all at once and in the confines of your home), this work is important as it is quite literally saving lives. I appreciate you, your sacrifices, and your efforts. Be well, Township!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph N. Bollendorf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joseph N. Bollendorf, Superintendent