



March 31, 2020

### **COVID-19: Update #8**

Dear WTPS Families,

We are now into week three of our school closure. I want to begin by thanking the countless number of individuals who have continued to work and volunteer to help ensure that our students are being fed and have technology to use. Our teachers are managing as they learn a whole new way to teach and learn, while raising and assisting their own children with the learning challenges they face. Our community is pulling together in so many ways with groups of people helping out the sick and elderly with food distribution, volunteering to help with our meal distribution each week, and folks, including at least one student from the high school, and two staff members in the district making surgical masks for our first responders and medical professionals. It is truly remarkable how we all come together to support one another in times of hardship.

We have made some decisions regarding grading and spring break that I wanted to share with all of you. There have been hours of discussion on these topics, and I realize these decisions will not be welcomed by everyone. Yet, decisions must be made, and, as always, I will continue to make decisions that I believe are in the best interest of our kids, our staff, and our community.

#### **Spring Break**

Spring break will go on as planned. Our staff, our students, our parents, and our support staff who are working tirelessly to get meals and technology out to our students, need time to recharge their batteries. Our kids and teachers can use this time to catch up. This new learning environment is a challenge for all, and this break will afford us the opportunity to take a deep breath, catch up where we need to, and spend time with one another without dealing with the challenges that remote learning has presented to all of us.

Most importantly, I believe that if we are given the opportunity to return to school, then preserving as many days in a normal learning environment for our kids to come back to is the right thing to do.

Therefore, school functions will cease on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, and will resume on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Third and Fourth Marking Periods**

The third marking period is being extended to Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. This is an increase of only two days but will allow us to finish with the beginning of spring break. The fourth marking period will commence on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **Final Exams**

All final exams are suspended for the 2019-20 school year. The semester average for students at the secondary level will be the combined average of the third and fourth marking periods.

## **Remote Learning Window**

We are asking for your continued patience and flexibility with our remote learning platform. We are expanding the window for communication from our teachers to students and parents to 9:30 a.m. We had asked our staff to have the day's work and information to our parents and students by 9:00 a.m., but after two weeks in this environment, we find it necessary to open the window up a little further.

It is critical that we all remain flexible, understanding, and communicative during this period. Finding the correct balance in recognition of the immense responsibilities we all share right now is critical to our social and emotional well-being. I will continue to communicate this to our staff, as well.

## **Last Day of School 2019-20**

The official last day for all staff and students will be **Thursday, June 18, 2020**.

Thank you for being our educational partners. I am very aware of the added stress this has placed on our parents. If we continue to communicate with kindness and consideration, we can manage these challenges and overcome them together.

Please remember to visit our COVID-19 district information page which can be found [here](#).

I am truly enjoying the many creative ways that our staff, students, and community are engaging with one another through social media. These happy communications do help all of us better cope with the added stress we are under.

Stay safe and healthy, Township.

Sincerely,



Joseph N. Bollendorf, Superintendent