



March 13, 2020

Dear WTPS Staff and Families,

The COVID-19 impact on our schools and communities is rapidly changing by the minute; therefore, our action plans and response must evolve accordingly.

Currently, there are still no reported cases of COVID-19 in Gloucester County; however, we are compelled to do all we can to minimize social contact in an attempt to help minimize the spread of this virus. A meeting was held today with all Gloucester County school districts, the County Superintendent, and the Gloucester County Department of Health. Currently, the DOH is not recommending the closure of schools in our county; however, we are very much aware of how fluid and ever-changing the situation is. For that reason, another meeting is scheduled for this Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, to reassess the situation in advance of school on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

An email was sent to all staff today directing them to take home their district technology and to advise students to take home their technology (in grades 6 through 12) as well as any relevant texts or workbooks. This was done in the event it becomes necessary to close schools on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Please note, that as of now, we are still scheduled for a half day of school on both Monday and Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.**

In the meantime, starting Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, all events hosted in our school buildings, including assemblies, as well as all field trips are cancelled or postponed. We are also notifying any outside community groups/organizations utilizing our indoor facilities that their events are cancelled or postponed. All athletics and spring sports' scrimmages have been cancelled through March 29<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, and to limit our students and staff to potential exposures, visitors, guest speakers, and volunteers will be restricted from our school buildings until further notice. Parents invited for scheduled meetings will still be admitted.

A complete list of event and trip cancellations will be posted on our websites and will be updated as extensions to the timeline may be necessary. Our staff and students have worked hard all year to receive recognition at awards ceremonies, to conduct musical and play performances, and to display their art in upcoming shows, to name a few. We realize how terribly disappointing this may be to all of you. It is very difficult for us as well; however, we believe this is a necessary decision that we are compelled to make given these rapidly changing circumstances. Our advisors and principals will be working on rescheduling events or refunding families (where needed and if possible) and will communicate more specific information as soon as possible.

We truly appreciate everyone's continued understanding during these unprecedented times.

We will continue to make decisions based on the best available information and ongoing guidance we receive from the New Jersey and Gloucester County Departments of Health. We would encourage our

families to begin making arrangements and/or thinking about what you may do if the district was compelled to close down for an extended period of time. Although we are not closing at this moment, we believe it is critical for all of us to be prepared for a closure in the near future.

We will continue to update all of you with any new information or developments.

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.

Mr. Joseph N. Bollendorf, Superintendent