

Washington
Township
Public
Schools



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May 4, 2020

Dear WTPS Staff and Families,

Earlier today Governor Murphy announced that all New Jersey Schools will be closed for in-person instruction for the remainder of this school year. Remote learning will continue for Washington Township students through June 18th. Like me, I am sure this has stirred mixed emotions in all of us. For many, the news is sad as our students will not have the chance to be reunited with their fellow classmates and teachers this year. For our 5th and 8th grade students, they will not have the chance to transition to the middle school and high school while saying goodbye to their current school in the traditional way.

For our seniors, this situation has been especially upsetting. I know it is hard for any of us to even fathom a senior year with no prom or graduation, yet our seniors are taking things in stride and many of them have, under these difficult circumstances, dedicated themselves to helping others. It is a true testament to their integrity, acceptance, and understanding of what this moment calls for. It makes me so proud of them and hopeful for the future knowing that we have young people amongst us who understand the circumstances, embrace the reality, and endeavor to do something positive.

Now that the Governor has closed us for the year it allows us to focus on immediate plans for the conclusion of this school year and to set our sights on planning for the anticipated re-opening of schools for 2020-2021 school year.

In the coming weeks, information will be forthcoming on plans to reunite students and staff with their personal belongings that remain in the buildings. The elementary and middle schools will be making plans to acknowledge their outgoing 5th and 8th graders. The high school will be sending final plans on virtual ceremonies for events like People's Choice Awards, Senior Awards, and Graduation. Information will also be sent regarding plans for extended school year for eligible students.

Currently, I am working with the municipality regarding the many summer programs that are housed in our schools. It is uncertain at this time as to whether or not any of these programs will be able to run, but we will communicate as soon as we are able.

I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to our staff and our parents for the collaborative work all of you have engaged in regarding remote learning. This has been a new journey for all of us, and the way all involved have embraced the challenge, and worked to improve it along the way is a true statement about the strength of our community. It could not have happened with out the effort of all involved.

Thank you and as always, stay safe and healthy, Township.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph N. Bollendorf", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joseph N. Bollendorf, Superintendent