



December 6, 2020

### **District Extends Full Remote Until Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**

Dear WTPS Families,

Despite our best intentions to keep our schools open as much as possible we are losing the battle to do so.

Since I last wrote to you on Friday with our intention to return to our hybrid schedule, the COVID-19 landscape has changed dramatically. In the last 48 hours we have been made aware of dozens of both new cases and close contacts that must quarantine. Today alone Washington Township reported 41 cases. This brings the week's total to 236 new cases, with a larger surge expected this coming week.

Each day, and in some cases each hour, brings new cases that is making it nearly impossible to staff many of our schools. Therefore, like many other school districts in the county facing the same challenges, we will **pivot to full remote instruction and remain fully remote until Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**. This will be 10 total days after the new year. Our hope will be that any surges associated with the holiday season will begin to dissipate at that time and provide an environment where buildings can be adequately staffed.

We have tried to keep our options open and make our decisions week to week and building to building. I realize this has added additional stress to everyone as you could not be certain what to expect from one week to the next. That has been the only way we could effectively try to keep schools open, but at this point we know that it is going to be several weeks before the current conditions begin to change for the better.

Therefore, to help provide greater consistency to our instructional model and to ensure the safety of our staff and students we have elected to continue in the remote model for this extended period.

I once again thank you for your support and understanding during this very difficult time.

Sincerely,

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 of Schools