



March 26, 2020

Dear WPS Families and Community,

Let me start by saying thank you! Thank you for your patience, understanding, and most of all, your trust in us during this unprecedented, confusing, and what at times feels frightening, crisis. Although we are unable to be together at this time, and our school buildings have been temporarily closed, our district administration and staff continue to work together to provide both academic and non-academic resources for our families. I am extremely proud of our WPS team who, on a daily basis, are finding creative ways to provide for students and connect with families. Our maintenance, and food service, staff are also going above and beyond in order to support our district initiatives in maintaining safe buildings and providing meals for families.

We receive updates from our government regularly, and at times, this requires us to adjust our system of resource provision. While this is a challenging task, we remain committed to providing our WPS students and families with whatever support we are able. **Please reach out to your student's building administrator if you have a question, concern, or need support.** They will connect you with the appropriate person to assist you.

Food distribution will continue at West Elementary and Wyoming Junior High every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday until further notice from 12:00-1:00. If your family is in need of support with food, please take advantage of these opportunities. As we receive more information from our state and federal leaders, we will adjust this support as needed.

As the number of people who test positive for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) begins to climb in Kent County, inevitably we will have students, staff, and family members who will be among those infected by COVID-19. Our school district is in frequent communication with the Kent County Health Department during this difficult time. The Health Department is responsible for monitoring the incidence of COVID-19 in our community. Those who test positive are contacted by the Health Department and those people who meet the CDC definition of a close contact are also notified. The Health Department staff orients cases and their close contacts about the need for isolation or quarantine. While only a portion of our community will require quarantine, all of us should be monitoring for symptoms, maintaining a safe distance from other people whenever possible, staying home unless it is essential to go out, and washing hands and surfaces frequently. These steps are good for everyone, whether you have had exposure or not. As a school district, we will not be informing our school families every time one of our students tests positive unless there is a specific reason to do so. We want to respect the confidentiality of each family. The Health Department is very diligent in their contact investigation and surveillance. Since school has not been in session for a number of days, the Kent County Health Department has informed us that the likelihood that your child was exposed to COVID-19 in the school setting is extremely low. If you have specific questions or concerns, please reach out to the Kent County Health Department at (616) 632-7228.



While we are working diligently at school to be ready to return to safe and healthy learning spaces, there are actions that you can take to stay safe and healthy at home. The following recommendations have been shared by medical professionals and government leaders and are good reminders of what we can each do as individuals.

The following recommendations (along with additional information) can be found on the American Medical Association's website:

- Minimize contact with those who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, scrubbing for at least 20 seconds
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe
- If you suspect you may have COVID-19, call ahead before visiting your doctor
- Those who suspect they may have been exposed to the virus should take care to minimize their contact with others if they experience a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness.
- <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/covid-19-frequently-asked-questions>

It is important for me to address questions and concerns regarding academic expectations, instruction, and progress in the curriculum as we know today. As a public school district, during this closure we cannot offer, or imply offering, instruction that progresses our students in the curriculum. We are legally and ethically bound to provide an equitable education to each and every one of our students. This means we cannot place educational demands on students or families, which, due to any number of circumstances (access to technology, native language, family dynamics, disability, etc.), not all students can meet. While this can be frustrating and disappointing, I appreciate your partnership in your student's education, and your concern for their continued progress. There are still many unanswered questions, and as we continue to receive State and Federal guidance, we will share updates and next steps so that we can all plan accordingly.

At this time, we ARE able to provide optional learning resources, review, and/or enrichment activities for our students and families. Our district website has many age-appropriate educational resources for students and parents to consider on the front page. Please look for the 'Online Resources' section at <https://wyomingps.org/>



As we haven't ever experienced this type of situation before, there is no instruction manual for us to follow. We are being asked to adhere to guidelines that can change on a daily basis. As we love, care about, and miss our students, please understand that we are taking all information into account when decisions are made for them and their wellbeing.

While each and every one of us is experiencing this crisis in our own individual way, our students, families, and staff continue to provide love, support, and encouragement to one another. In Wyoming Public Schools, we are family and we are #BetterTogether.

Go Wolves!

Superintendent