



Warren County Public Schools

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OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT

March 19, 2020

Dear Warren County Public School Students and Families,

The purpose of this letter is to provide the latest updates on the status of continued instruction for the students of Warren County. WCPS staff is working daily to coordinate key information and develop guidance based on new information as it becomes available. Your patience and support are appreciated during this extraordinary time.

We have begun receiving questions about our plans for providing educational services during the mandated closure. Please remember that this week has been an extension of our spring break. These days will not be required to be made up later in the school year. Please remember that we are only permitted to provide instruction that includes new material via distance learning methods if we can assure a level of equity for those without an internet connection as well as for students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Therefore, any materials made available to students are to be considered optional instructional resources. A plan for providing new instruction will be addressed should school closure extend beyond the current April 13th date.

Only staff identified by the interim superintendent, as essential to current daily operations, will report to work beginning March 30th. Schools and division administrative offices will be closed to the public beginning March 30th and extending through April 13th. In accordance with the Center for Disease Control guidance, our schools and offices will be closed to promote social distancing. Families, please continue to practice preventive strategies at home as well, such as avoiding physical contact when greeting or receiving documents and meals, covering coughs and sneezes, frequent handwashing, and similar measures.

It is important to us that we are still available to our families. Please feel free to contact the school and set up an appointment with your child's principal should you: have questions or concerns during this very uncertain time; need to pick up items belonging to your student; or to retrieve medication in the school clinic.

Each school sent communication home regarding alternate plans for instruction in the event of closings on or around March 13th. Those plans will be updated, revised and available to parents before the close of business on March 20th. The division is in the process of working out a plan in which our food service and transportation departments, in conjunction with our instructional staff, may be able to make some instructional materials available to families at identified bus stops one to two times per week during the school closure. More information will be forthcoming regarding this plan.

School staff will be reaching out to all families – either electronically or by phone – during the week of March 30th to check in and answer any questions families may have. If you have not heard from your child’s school by April 3rd, please contact your child’s teacher electronically, or your child’s principal electronically or by phone. It is important to us that we stay connected to our students and their families.

Please be on the lookout for additional communications in the coming weeks regarding the learning opportunities that will be made available to students and how these educational services will be delivered. Again, the initial emphasis will be on reinforcing skills and on information that has been taught previously.

There are still many unanswered questions regarding instructional requirements and Standards of Learning (SOL) testing. While the situation remains fluid, the Virginia Department of Education announced it is seeking maximum flexibility for schools and students to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, including relief from federal and state testing requirements. The state superintendent has encouraged school divisions to apply for a waiver to alleviate graduation requirements this school year. We are committed to each of our students receiving a high school diploma and will work with families to ensure that students who meet local requirements do indeed graduate.

The VDOE has also released an updated list of frequently asked questions about COVID-19’s impact on schools statewide.

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/office/covid-19-faq.shtml

Thank you for your ongoing support during these challenging times. Please know that we will be here to answer questions and offer support in any way that we can.

Sincerely,



Melody Sheppard
Interim Superintendent