



West Orange Public Schools
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Superintendent of Schools

J. Scott Cascone, Ed. D.

March 25, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The West Orange Public School district continues to monitor the emerging public health issue with COVID-19. The health, safety, and well-being of our students, staff, and community members remain our priority. The CDC recommends a community-wide approach focused on slowing the transmission of COVID-19 by limiting large gatherings of people and practicing social distancing.

In my letter to our community on March 17, 2020, I shared the measures by which our district transitioned to e-learning and followed up with correspondence regarding assistance for both technology and food provisions. This week, the roll out of our e-learning platform has been largely successful. Minor issues were remedied as our families and staff adjusted to this new form of pedagogy. I am confident that our faculty will continue to educate our students.

As we have all been monitoring the current public health status, I would be remiss if I did not share with you that it is probable that school will remain closed for an extended period of time into the foreseeable future. We recognize that this school closure is disruptive for families, but we have a collective responsibility to address this public health challenge. The re-opening of our facilities must be tailored and based specifically on the overall health status within our township. Speculation at this time is simply premature.

In the meantime, we strongly recommend that families continue to practice the social distancing recommendations by the CDC, avoid large gatherings which are critically important preventive measures to arrest the spread of the virus. Our district website continues to be updated with valuable information concerning COVID-19. We encourage students to stay home during this prolonged closure. During this time, only essential school and district personnel will be permitted in our buildings and on school grounds, including playgrounds, fields, athletic fields and courts. In addition, the New Jersey Department of Education has cancelled statewide assessments.

We will continue to evaluate this evolving situation and provide updates to the community via email, our district website at <https://www.wboe.org/>, and social media. Our faculty and staff continue to work remotely and can be contacted via email and phone. School is not closed. It just looks a little different right now. Please reach out to your principal, nurse, counselors, and teachers with any questions or concerns. For additional resources, please feel free to utilize the district hotline: 973-435-9637.

Thank you for your support and understanding as we continue to educate our children while implementing best practices to keep everyone safe.

Sincerely,

J. Scott Cascone, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools