



WEST SENECA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Matthew J. Bystrak
Superintendent of Schools

March 18, 2020

Dear West Seneca Families,

In an effort to keep open the lines of communications, and as we continue to receive more information regarding the current closure of our schools, we are reaching out with the following updates.

Please know that the well-being and safety of our students, families, and staff are of the utmost importance not only during these unprecedented times, but always. We will continue to update protocols and procedures around the academic, social-emotional, and physical components of our students' education.

As such, we want to reiterate to our school community that our teachers will be reaching out to our students on a weekly basis through a variety of modalities while our schools remain closed. Teachers will begin contacting our students within the next several days. Additionally, attached to this letter, is a list of daily habits and activities that our students can refer to and engage with on a consistent basis.

For our elementary students, report cards that were scheduled to be sent home on March 23rd will be delayed and made available at a later time. We will communicate to our school community in the coming weeks once the date has been finalized. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility with this matter.

As these times can be somewhat stressful and overwhelming to all of us, including our students. Our school counselors, social workers, and school psychologists will be available to students via email during regular school hours Monday through Friday, and will make every effort to respond to emails as soon as feasibly possible. The following are resources that are available to the community at large should you experience a mental health emergency while school is closed.

- Youth under 18: Spectrum Cares: 716 882.4357
- Suicide Crisis Hotline: 1.800.784.2433
- Crisis Services: (716) 834-3131 (24 hour hotline)
- Crisis Services: (716) 834-1144 (kids helpline)
- Mental Health Association of Erie County: (716) 886-1242
- National Suicide Hotline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

The Erie County Department of Health has communicated the importance of utilizing non-pharmaceutical interventions as we work to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Among these are:

- **Wash your hands often and correctly** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.
- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick.
- **Cover your cough or sneeze** with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you do not have a tissue use your elbow not your hands.
- **Clean and disinfect** frequently touched objects and surfaces.

The District is also working to arrange childcare for any of our West Seneca district students (grades Pre-K through 5th Grade) whose parents/guardians are First Responders and/or Medical Professionals. This service will be provided at NO COST to these families.

For more information, please visit our district website:

<https://www.wscschools.org>

Lastly, if you have questions regarding the District's response to COVID-19, please call 716-677-3619.

Together, we will support our students and families as we navigate through this public health crisis.

In solidarity,

Matthew J. Bystrak

Superintendent