

April 8, 2020

Dear West Seneca Families,

We hope this letter finds each and every one of you in good health and spirits...Please know that we continue to think about you and your child(ren) during this time. What follows below are some updates about important information for our students and their families. It is our desire to provide you with pertinent information as reasonably often as possible, without overwhelming our families during this time of school closure.

### **Communication and Continuity of Learning Updates**

District communication will continue to flow to you through letters, emails, robo calls, and through district-sponsored social media platforms, while we are closed. Please note that our return to school date was extended to April 29<sup>th</sup>. Our teachers and staff have and will continue to reach out to you and your child(ren) through a variety of means regarding the continuity of learning. The District website is also a valuable resource for our families for obtaining information related to the CoVid-19 Pandemic as well as for accessing many of the educational tools that are available to our students. We recommend checking the website as frequently as possible for updates.

As mentioned above, our teachers and staff are communicating regularly with our students to help guide them in their continuity of learning during the period for which our schools have remained closed. Please be sure your child(ren) are accessing their district email accounts for teacher communications. (To access the account, visit the district website, click on the "District E-mail" icon on the bottom left, and enter user name and password). Up to this point, we have focused on providing our students with a variety of learning activities and assignments that review previously taught concepts/topics and skills to ensure students are maintaining their progression towards the appropriate learning standards. If your child(ren) has/have not yet heard from their teacher, please contact his or her building principal as soon as possible. We understand that access to technology may not be available to all, and we are working with families to help them work through this situation. For your information, Spectrum Charter is offering 60 days of free access for those who have school-aged children in the home. They can be reached at 1-844-488-8395 for more information. Attached to this communication is also a resource for parents that will provide some non-technological activities and assignments for their child(ren) to engage with and complete while we are not in school. Please understand that this is a guide. We ask that you do what is reasonably possible for you and your family at this time.

As you may be aware, the third marking period was scheduled to close on April 3<sup>rd</sup> for our secondary students (middle and high schools). Given our current closure of schools, we will conclude the third marking period effective our last student attendance day, March 13<sup>th</sup>. It is important for us to provide our students with the opportunity to make up any missing assignments and/or resubmit their work during the time for which students were in school for the third marking period. Accordingly, students will be given up until and through May 8<sup>th</sup> to complete this work. Teachers will work directly with their students to communicate how best to complete these tasks/assignments. Report cards will become available on May 18<sup>th</sup> through the portal.

For our elementary students, the second trimester was scheduled to and has ended on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Teachers will work to complete report cards for their students and these will also become available to parents and students the week of April 27<sup>th</sup>. These will be mailed home to families.

An important component to the continuity of learning is assessments. In regards to standardized testing, please know that the following assessments have been canceled per the New York State Education Department for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic school year:

- New York State Regents Exams in ELA, Science, Mathematics, and Social Studies
- New York State Grades 3-8 English Language Arts Test;
- New York State Grades 3-8 Mathematics Test;
- New York State Grade 4 Elementary-Level Science Test;
- New York State Grade 8 Intermediate-Level Science Test;
- New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) in Grades K-12;
- New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) for students with severe cognitive disabilities in Grades 3-8 and high school.

While these assessments have been canceled, we will continue to work with our students to carry on their learning towards the standards in the content areas and/or courses they currently are studying.

**Please note:** Advanced Placement (AP) exams are still scheduled to take place in May. Students enrolled in AP courses will receive communication from their teachers regarding the dates and structure for which these examinations will be administered.

#### **Food Service Program Update**

Our District Food Service Program remains available to our students during this time. Student meals are distributed on Mondays through Fridays. Our locations for meal distribution are Winchester and Northwood Elementary Schools from 11:00-1:00, as well as our satellite locations at Garden Village from 11:00-11:30, Slate Creek from 11:30-12:00, and at Cambridge Square from 12:15-12:45.

#### **Childcare Program Updates**

Our District continues to provide childcare to residents who are First Responders, Medical Professionals and Essential Employees at ***NO COST to these families***. The childcare program remains available to families Monday through Friday from 8 am until 3 pm at Northwood Elementary School for students in UPK through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We will continue to provide these children with meals as well while in attendance.

Childcare for children from birth to age 4 has been made available at an off-site location. Medical Professionals, First Responders and Essential Employees who need more information on how to enroll may contact Stephanie Wright, program coordinator, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm via email, [swright01@wscschools.org](mailto:swright01@wscschools.org), or by calling 677-3185.

In closing, we wish to reiterate that the overall well-being of our students and their families are what matters most as we collectively navigate this unprecedented time in history. While we will keep you apprised of any new updates as they become available, know that we are here for you and that you can reach out to us as needed with any questions or concerns.

Be well and please take good care.

Respectfully yours,

Carmelina Persico  
Assistant Superintendent of Educational Operations