



JEFFREY S. MOHRE, SUPERINTENDENT

## Washington Township Schools

~ A Community of 21st-Century Learners ~

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### An IMPORTANT "WTS" MESSAGE for Parents, Staff, & Faculty

~ October 9, 2020 ~

Today our school community completed the 6th week of this new school year and did so with steadfast commitments to health, safety, and continuity of instruction. This reopening has required such energy, effort, and attention to detail on the part of us all - - not to mention an extraordinary focus on helping each individual feel as comfortable as one can feel returning to school amid this pandemic. Our faculty, staff, and school leaders deserve only the highest of praise as do our parents for their unwavering support of the children. Please let our young learners know just how proud we all are of them as they have demonstrated such kindness, empathy, and understanding throughout their return to school! Make no mistake about it - - the work has been challenging, complex, and often difficult. However, the rewards have been plentiful! WTS remains unwavering in its commitment to support each and every child academically, socially, and emotionally while being mindful each day of the critical balances we are all striving to strike in order to promote learning, health, safety, and comfort. Looking ahead there are several changes that we expect will be or may eventually be in place during the next six weeks of the children's school year. Here's a glimpse:

- Each school is currently discussing/planning for student lunch to return to the cafeterias/gyms/multi-purpose rooms. Planning is being undertaken with a critical eye on student and staff safety. (Still in the discussion/planning phase)
- Child Study Team testing/evaluation has been expanded to include Mondays and on days when students are not scheduled to attend school (i.e. "A" students on "B" days; "B" students on "A" days) in order to minimize missed class time during a child's in-person learning days. (In place for Week 7)
- In-person special education *related services* sessions (i.e. speech; occupational therapy; physical therapy) have also been expanded and children may have such services on days they are not scheduled to be present in school as schedules permit. - (In place for Week 7)
- LVMS has begun to explore "Virtual Club" opportunities and this may very well begin over the next six weeks. (Still in the discussion/planning phase)
- Expanded student use of stationary playground structures at the elementary level. (Still in the discussion/planning phase)

It is important to note that there may be other changes coming during the next segment (weeks 7 through 12) of the school year. The Leadership Team continues to discuss possible appropriate alterations while continuing to adopt a cautious but practical approach during this period of pandemic and recovery. As those changes emerge, rest assured that each one will be made with strict adherence to our safety protocols which have proven effective to date in mitigating the spread of COVID-19. We will be sure to communicate with you every step of the way.

Thank you so very much for the outstanding manner in which you have all come together to keep our children safe, healthy, and learning! I encourage everyone to inspire one another, offer words of praise, exercise patience, and regularly engage in small acts of kindness as we continue to promote the healthy development of our community's young people.

Take good care, remain vigilant, and enjoy the weekend ...

Jeff Mohre  
Superintendent of Schools