



Washington Township Schools

~ A Community of 21st-Century Learners ~

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SCHOOL-HOME COMMUNICATION FOR OUR WTS FAMILY

~ Thursday, April 9, 2020 ~

It is my hope that all of our students, their families, and our WTS faculty are experiencing good health as we continue to help rid our State and Nation of this awful pandemic crisis. For those families who have been personally affected by the virus please do not hesitate to reach out if you need any help or assistance. As we all continue to adjust to the transformation we are undergoing I extend my personal thanks to everyone for your care of our community's children. Our young people may have a hard time making sense of what is happening in *their* World. The crisis at hand may at times be overwhelming, confusing, and even quite scary for a young child or teenager. As adults, we can help children cope by acknowledging feelings, listening actively, modelling calm, and creating predictable routines. I thank you all for your unconditional care, love, and support of the children ... their emotional wellness and safety/security needs are priority one!

As we welcome the Passover and Easter holidays, I would like to take a few moments to provide our WTS Family with additional information and guidance as we move forward, together ...

Schools Closed Indefinitely: On Tuesday of this week, Governor Murphy announced that all schools will be closed indefinitely. Yes, although not a 100% certainty, the possibility of *at-home learning* continuing through the end of the school year is very real. As I shared with our awesome faculty earlier today, all we can do is continue to do what we do best: care, educate, support, and be the "helpers" Mr. Roger's mother told him to look for whenever "scary things" were happening in the World. Let's all take life one day at a time and keep ourselves and our loved ones as healthy as possible ... *we will get through this together.*

Refining the At-Home Learning Experience: In response to the health crisis, WTS has made it a point to ensure that safety and security needs remain the top priority. Your school district recognizes that each individual home and family has been impacted in some way, shape, or form and we are committed to educating the "whole child," focusing on both academic success and well-being. Each of our schools has (or is) producing videos and finding creative ways to let children know that they are in our collective thoughts every day! In addition, you are likely to see refinements to classroom or school experiences/schedules as our new way of schooling continues. Teachers and school leaders are collaborating on a regular basis to improve upon the successes realized thus far and their collective energy and dedication have been nothing short of amazing. Oh, and the positive feedback so many of our students' parents have shared has been so incredibly uplifting and rewarding ... thank you for every kind word!

Reminder ~ Good Friday!: Please be reminded that there is **no school** (meaning no at-home learning) tomorrow, April 10 for the observance of Good Friday. For those members of our WTS Family who are celebrating holidays this weekend I wish you a Happy Passover and a Joyous Easter.

To our entire WTS Family, may you be well and take good care ...

♥ **We WILL Get Through This TOGETHER!** ♥

Jeff Mohre
Superintendent of Schools