SCHOOL-HOME COMMUNICATION FOR OUR WTS FAMILIES

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

It is my hope that all of our students, their families, and our WTS faculty are doing well as we adjust to the transformation we are undergoing here in our community and in our Nation. Now that our second day of “At-Home Learning” has come to a close, I would like to provide our WTS Family with additional information and guidance as we all navigate this COVID-19 health crisis TOGETHER …

At-Home Learning: First and foremost, a huge THANK YOU to our faculty, staff, and school leaders for their extraordinary efforts in preparing for the children’s at-home learning experiences … and to you, our students’ parents, for guiding, loving, and supporting your children through this time of great change. The positive feedback and expressions of gratitude we are receiving from faculty and parents truly highlight the strong sense of unity within our fine community. It is truly heartwarming to witness the effort, energy, flexibility, and comradery across our school community as we work together to guide, support, and care for the children.

Tips for Parents: In these beginning days of at-home learning, I have shared Tips for Parents using the Facebook social media platform. If you are on Facebook, you are welcome to search for and follow Washington Township Schools (Morris County). Here are the tips shared the past two evenings:

- **At-Home Learning Tip #1 For Parents** as We Begin this Journey TOGETHER:
  
  *The transition to home learning is a big change for children. During a big transition, students need consistency. Keep normal meal and bed times, and start learning when school typically starts each day.*

- **At-Home Learning Tip #2 for Parents** (As we get ready for Day 2 of our journey TOGETHER):
  
  *Create a designated learning space at home. Organize learning materials and designate a common area for learning. Ideally, the space is located where family members can participate in the child’s learning. Empower children to have a voice in the design and set up of the space … PRICELESS!*

Governor Orders All Schools Closed: Governor Murphy has ordered all schools closed for at least two weeks beginning today and has shared that New Jerseyans should expect the state-wide closure to last much longer “until such time is deemed by health officials to be safe for classes to resume.” It is important that we all remain focused on the days leading up to WTS’ Spring Break and, most importantly, the health and well-being of our children, families, and ourselves. As parents and educators, we must also be prepared to continue
personal health-related safeguards and at-home learning once Spring Break (March 28 – April 5) concludes. In short, we will continue this new way of life until further notice and support one another every step of the way!

**Technology Support for Students and Parents:** Please note that if the Chromebook issued to your child (Grades 3 through 8) malfunctions or is in need of repair during this period of at-home learning, simply send an email to Dr. Battitori for assistance. Dr. Battitori can be reached at jbattitori@wtschools.org. In addition, WTS has been providing temporary internet access for families. If you are in need, please contact Dr. Battitori.

**School and Evening Events:** During this period of school closure, ALL school activities and events have been placed on hold. In addition, community activities/events scheduled to take place after school hours inside our school facilities have been cancelled until further notice.

Our entire WTS Professional Family is deeply committed to supporting you and your children through this COVID-19 national health crisis. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you need additional guidance or support … We’re here to help!

Take care and stay well…

💌 **We WILL Get Through This TOGETHER!** 💜

Jeff Mohre  
*Superintendent of Schools*