



Washington Township Schools

~ A Community of 21st-Century Learners ~

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SCHOOL-HOME COMMUNICATION FOR OUR WTS FAMILY

~ Friday, April 17, 2020 ~

One month ago today our school community began “at-home” learning and, 31 days later, I find myself overwhelmed with feelings of great pride. The adults have rallied mightily to support the children of our beloved community and I thank everyone for maintaining such an acute focus on the needs of our youngest citizens. From day one we have emphasized that the children’s emotional wellness and safety/security needs are priority one. It is my hope that everyone has settled in to this new way of schooling as we continue our mutual commitment to educating the *whole* child. However, please know that your WTS is here to support YOU should you be in need of assistance ... please do not hesitate to reach out!

As we welcome the weekend, I would like to take a few moments to provide our WTS Family with additional information and guidance as we enter month 2 of “at-home” learning, together ...

NJ Schools Closed Through May 15th: Yesterday, Governor Murphy announced that all New Jersey schools will be closed at least through May 15th. As I shared last week, the possibility of *at-home learning* continuing through the end of the school year is very real. We all understand the battle we are fighting and let us all continue to engage in safe practices during these unprecedented times. As a community, we are all deeply dedicated to supporting one another through this terrible health crisis and I know we all look forward to the day when our hallways and classrooms are once again alive with the sights and sounds of children. That day will come ... each day we are one step closer ... *we will get through this together.*

Mental Health & Well-Being Amid the COVID-19 Crisis: Many outstanding organizations have provided guidance to parents and educators for promoting the well-being of children during times of crisis. The *National Association of School Psychologists* has published a supportive article titled [Helping Children Cope with Changes Resulting from COVID-19](#) (click on the title and it will bring you to this helpful resource ... along the right side you can even select your preferred language!). In addition, please know that WTS’ School Psychologists, Social Workers, Counselors, and Nurses stand ready to provide support to children and adults alike. WTS will never stop caring for the heart of our school community!

Board of Education Meeting: As school district operations continue, it is important to note that our Board of Education remains focused on supporting the overall wellness of our school district. Although schools are closed, the Board will resume its meeting schedule on Tuesday, April 28th. WTS is in the process of refining its plans to conduct its very first “virtual” Board of education meeting and you will receive information about the meeting in the week ahead ... stay tuned!

Take good care and please stay safe,

♥ We WILL Get Through This TOGETHER! ♥

Jeff Mohre
Superintendent of Schools