



Washington Township Schools

~ A Community of 21st-Century Learners ~

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SCHOOL-HOME COMMUNICATION FOR OUR ENTIRE WTS FAMILY

~ UPDATE: 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR ~

Friday, July 3, 2020

I hope everyone is enjoying these early days of summer and staying safe! As this past school year was winding down, I shared with you that the WTS Leadership Team had been meeting to discuss and plan for the potential school scenarios that were likely to emerge as we headed toward Opening Day 2020. Based on the announcement made by Governor Murphy last Friday it has become clear that, as of this moment in time, schools will reopen in some capacity for in-person instruction.

Recently, the State provided school districts with a 104-page guidance document which the Leadership Team has been reviewing closely since its release last Friday. It is important to note here that our country is still in the midst of a pandemic. We need to proceed with both care and caution in developing a plan that underscores safety and instructional consistency for the children and adults of our school community. We will continue to work diligently to create a plan that best realizes these two goals; taking into account our own deep understandings of school operations, those of experts in various and pertinent fields, the responses to our recent staff and parent surveys (Thank you!), and the State's expectations and restrictions. Planning will continue through the seven lenses I have outlined previously: Physical & Mental Health; Teaching and Learning; School Operations; Technology Resources; Facilities & Maintenance; Transportation; and Governance (School Leadership & District Communications). Again, human safety and consistency of instruction will remain our top priorities.

Next week I will be meeting with members of the Board of Education in small groups to discuss the State's guidance document and will be certain to communicate again with you by the end of next week. In the meantime, your school district will continue the planning effort and has set its sights on late July for the completion of its 2020-2021 School Reopening Plan. WTS will also maintain a watchful eye on the pandemic landscape here in our Garden State as well as any further Executive Orders emanating from Governor Murphy's office. This remains a very fluid situation and we are ready to adjust accordingly.

Please take good care, stay safe, and enjoy the Fourth of July Holiday with your families ... thank you!

Jeff Mohre

Superintendent of Schools

We Will Get Through This ... Together!