Monday, March 9, 2020

Dear WTS Parents,

As part of last week's communication regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease-2019) I shared with you that the District's Leadership Team is currently planning for the continuity of teaching and learning should there ever be a need to close school due to COVID-19. Although a health-related school closure may never happen, we continue to make preparations.

As the District completes its "Learning Plan" it is important to note that the District's technology platforms and resources will play prominent, though not necessarily exclusive, roles in continuing the teaching-learning process. Of course, the role of technology will shift for those families who do not have internet access (our schools will be working to identify those families and tailor necessary learning supports accordingly). Please note that your school district is planning for classroom instruction as well as for specialized related services should your child receive such as part of her/his regular school day. In addition, we are planning for the continuity of the Free & Reduced Lunch Program for families who are eligible participants in the program.

Please note that in order for our faculty to plan for instruction and services against the backdrop of a possible health-related school closure I have recommended to our Board of Education that we effect a change to the current school calendar to reflect two Early Dismissal Days in the coming weeks. The dates are as follows: Friday, March 20th & Friday March 27th. I am alerting you now because I know that it takes time to arrange for personal childcare. Our after-school childcare programs would continue to operate on both days.

Most certainly, I will keep you informed as WTS continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation. As a reminder, this bulletin and all previous COVID-19 communications are on our web site @ www.wtschools.org (under District Headlines & Features located in the center of the homepage).

In the meantime, please remember to follow the Centers for Disease Control guidelines: 1. Wash hands; 2. Avoid close contact with people who are sick; 3. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then toss it into the trash; 4. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth (very difficult to do as most of us do so up to 50 times per hour ... however, new habits can be formed. It just takes time); 5. Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care; 6. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Thank you, stay tuned, and take care,

Jeffrey S. Mohre
Superintendent of Schools