

Whitehall-Coplay School District

WAYNE A. GRIM, *PRESIDENT*
WILLIAM P. FONZONE, Sr., *VICE-PRESIDENT*
GEORGE E. WILLIAMS., *TREASURER*
PATTY D. GAUGLER, *MEMBER*
NICHOLE L. HARTMAN, D.N.P., *MEMBER*
TINA J. KOREN, *MEMBER*
WILLIAM L. LEINER, Jr., *MEMBER*
GEORGE N. MAKHOUL, *MEMBER*
JOSEPH R. SHIELDS, *MEMBER*



Administration Building
2940 MacArthur Road
Whitehall, PA 18052-3408
(610) 439-1431
Fax: (610) 435-0124

LORIE D. HACKETT, Ed. D.
SUPERINTENDENT
CHRISTOPHER A. SCHIFFERT
ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT
J. MICHAEL MALAY Jr.
BUSINESS MANAGER
BROOKE A. CLARY
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
BARBARA A. CHOMIK, Ed.D.
DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION
LAURA E. VANDEGRIFT
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

March 16, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to thank you for your ongoing patience and continued support during the days ahead, as we collaborate to support our students, families and school community. While we are working to maintain the most critical district operations, please know that our first priority is the well-being and care of our students.

As you are aware, per the Governor of Pennsylvania, our school buildings will be closed through March 27, 2020. The closures include all athletics, activities, and events. Only essential personnel will be permitted in school buildings until further notice. Given the uncertainty and seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic, there certainly remains the possibility that various closures, cancellations or postponements may be implemented or continue beyond the slated two-week time frame. We will share any information with regard to the reopening of school as we receive updates from local, state and federal officials. We urge parents and guardians to adhere to any and all advice on social distancing and remain vigilant with preventative actions, as we truly must fight the spread of the COVID-19 virus together as a community.

Food Distribution

Food is available for all WCSD students during the closure, regardless of free and reduced or regular pay lunch status. Meal pickups will be available each day beginning tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17th at the HS parent pickup / drop off area, which is in the front of the high school nearest the pool and the gym. Pick up times will be from 10:00 - 12:00, Monday-Friday. Students who need meals must be present and accompany their parents in order to receive food. Both breakfast and lunch will be provided in two separate bags. The food will be available curbside, thus you should remain in your car to the best of your ability and food will be handed directly to you in your vehicle. The district is directing questions with regard to meals and food pickup to Wayne Walp at (610) 782-0961 or walpw@whitehallcoplay.org.

Extended Learning Opportunities

With a school district closure, we believe the continuation of learning is very important. However, due to the rapid evolution of this pandemic, recommendations for extended learning opportunities will be shared. Various forms of communication, such as the school messenger system, email or other tools that your child's teacher may have used previously this year will be utilized to provide updated information. Parents can help by encouraging their child's participation in independent learning while at home for an extended time period.

Any extended learning opportunities will be for the purpose of keeping your child(ren) in the mode of learning rather than to be used to evaluate or provide a grade. Your child's building principal and/or classroom teachers will provide more detailed information on how to access these opportunities.

Informational Resources

Finally, we continue to encourage you to review and adhere to the [CDC guidance and resources for households](#). As it states, the best advice for prevention of any respiratory virus continues to be simple, common sense preventative actions for students and staff that apply to everyone:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cover coughs or sneezes with your elbow or tissue that is immediately placed in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Clean and disinfect surfaces frequently, including countertops, light switches, cell phones, remotes, and other frequently touched items.
- If your child is sick and running a fever, defined as a temperature greater than or equal to 100 degree Fahrenheit, please keep them out of school until they are fever free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications.

St. Luke's has launched a **coronavirus hotline** to respond to inquiries from patients and the public. This hotline is 24/7 and led by nursing staff who are giving CDC and PA DOH recommendations and updates. It is not a substitute for the advice of a physician or when necessary, medical attention. There are two ways to reach the hotline:

- **Phone:** 1-866-STLUKES (785-8537), option 7
- **E-mail:** coronavirus@sluhn.org
- You can also visit <https://www.slhn.org/blog/2020/novel-coronavirus-faq> for general information.

Additional Resources

- [PDE](#)
- [CDC](#)
- [PA Dept. of Health](#)

As always, if you have any concerns regarding your child's health, it is recommended that you consult with your child's primary care physician. We will continue to update you as new information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lorie Hackett, Superintendent of Schools

The Whitehall-Coplay School District, an equal opportunity employer, will not discriminate in employment, educational programs or activities, based on race, sex, handicap or because a person is a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam Era. This policy of non-discrimination extends to all other legally protected classifications. Publication of this policy in this document is in accordance with State and Federal laws including Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. We further affirm that all curriculum offerings and student enrollment practices will be handled without discrimination based on sex, race, religion, national origin, or non-job related handicaps or disabilities.