

April 3, 2020

Greetings Whitehall-Coplay Families,

I hope this letter finds you safe and doing well amidst the unprecedented struggles we are all facing. First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincere thanks for your unwavering patience and support as the implementation of digital education for our district continues to evolve. I know the transition to online learning has been extremely difficult for parents and students alike, not to mention the personal stress the COVID -19 pandemic has placed on all of us.

As a result of the Governor's recent announcement to close schools indefinitely and the introduction of the Continuity of Education Plan required by all school districts, WCSD will be moving toward providing monitored, graded, new learning opportunities for students K-12 beginning April 14, 2020. Our Middle School students were given the opportunity to pick up Chromebooks from school on Monday and Elementary students will be picking up Chromebooks on Friday as needed. With that said, we feel as a district that we can now move forward with some additional requirements of students to enhance their learning.

Student attendance will essentially begin being monitored on April 14th. However, in order to maintain flexibility, attendance will be taken based on the weekly completion of assignments. For example, if the due date is Friday and students complete and turn in all work as assigned, they will be marked present for the week.

At this moment we have not made a final decision on the style of grading that we will be administering and the format could vary from elementary to secondary. We are seeking further guidance from PDE on both attendance and grading prior to making any final decisions. Thus, these areas are subject to change as we move forward.

Beginning April 14, 2020, the general expectations for learning will be as follows:

- Classwork will be posted by your child(ren)'s teacher(s) each Monday by 9 am.
- Teachers will be asked to make a virtual connection with their classes at least once during the course of the week.
- Teachers will be encouraged to post specific "office hours" for parents/students to reach out with questions and/or concerns.

You should expect to receive a follow-up letter with more specific information from your child(ren)'s building principal in the very near future. This letter will also include information about third marking period grading procedures.

If at any time you have questions, concerns or require assistance of any kind, we encourage you to reach out to your child(ren)'s teachers, counselor or building administrator. Additionally, our Special Education teachers, School Nurses, School Psychologists and other support staff will also be working with and available to students as needed.

Finally, please see the additional attachment which contains an important FERPA notice for virtual education. Please take note of #1, which states that you should NOT be recording any of the content, activities, or group communication that is conveyed via any virtual platforms our teachers may utilize to provide educational opportunities and learning.

Please continue to stay safe.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lorie Hackett
WCSD Superintendent