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WEST ELIZABETH - JEFFERSON HILLS - PLEASANT HILLS

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March 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

At this point in our response to the COVID-19 virus, we have received no guidance from the governor or the Department of Education on school cancellations. We had hoped that during today's 9:00AM press conference that additional direction and guidelines would have been provided. After much deliberation and discussion with the other superintendents in Allegheny County, we have collectively decided that it is in the best interest of our students, staff, and community to cancel school and all school-related activities for at least the next two weeks. This includes all sports, performances, and practices. **The suspension of activities and closure of school will be in effect from Friday, March 13 until Friday, March 27. Tentatively, we will resume school and activities on March 30, 2020.**

We have asked all students to take their electronic devices and textbooks home with them today in case we are allowed to provide instruction during the closure. To date, the Pennsylvania Department of Education has not said whether or not they would excuse the days of cancellation. Since we have not been previously approved for Flexible Instruction Days through the state, we cannot utilize them without some notification. We plan to meet as an administrative team on Monday to review any new information and re-evaluate our plan to provide instruction during the cancellation. At that time, we will notify everyone of our plans, and we will provide information on when and how instruction will take place. If it is determined that these days need to be made up, then we will not be providing instruction during the cancellation because we will need our teachers and staff for the makeup days.

As you are well aware, information regarding the COVID-19 virus is changing rapidly. We will continue to communicate guidelines related to COVID-19 and the District's plans through email, website postings, and School Messenger. We understand that such a closure is unprecedented, but we feel that the safety and welfare of our students, staff, and families warrant such measures. We appreciate your patience as we work through these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Ghilani

Superintendent of Schools

It is the policy of the West Jefferson Hills School District to not discriminate on the basis of sex, handicap, age, race, color, and national origin in its educational and vocational programs, activities, or employment as required by Title IX, Section 5094 and Title VI. For information regarding services, activities, programs, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons or about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Director of Human Resources at 412-655-8450 x2228.