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## WEST ELIZABETH - JEFFERSON HILLS - PLEASANT HILLS

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Director of Human Resources

*JADE FIORE*

Supervisor of Special Education/Pupil Personnel

March 12, 2020

Dear Parents,

We are continuing to monitor the latest updates regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) from the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and World Health Organization (WHO). We have developed a comprehensive Pandemic Response Plan that was shared with our board this past Tuesday and was enacted immediately. Parents and children should continue to be vigilant with preventative measures such as frequent hand washing and good hygiene. Any suspected exposure should be reported to the school nurse immediately. Please keep your kids home if they appear sick. This morning, I participated in an online meeting with other Allegheny County superintendents and the Intermediate Unit to discuss the Health Department's recommendations and discuss our plans for moving forward. After that discussion and reviewing the latest information from the CDC and the Allegheny Health Department, we've determined that, for the safety of our students, staff, and community, the following guidelines will be implemented beginning **Thursday, March 12, 2020**, and will be in effect through **Thursday, March 26, 2020**, or until further notice:

- External organizations will not be permitted to use any West Jefferson Hills facilities, fields, and grounds. All previously approved and scheduled events within this timeframe are canceled. The District will contact organizations, who will be responsible for notifying their own stakeholders.
- All district student and staff trips outside of Western Pennsylvania are canceled. This includes the boys' baseball trip to Myrtle Beach.
- To limit potential risks, all of the district field trips will also be canceled.
- The District will only permit essential visitors to our schools. Essential visitors are specifically parents/guardians or individuals listed as emergency contacts.
- School district home athletic games and practices will be held, but spectators will not be permitted to attend. This could change after receiving guidance from the WPIAL on the spring sports season.
- Before and after school care with Little Kids Playcare will continue as planned until further notice.
- The PIAA has suspended the state playoffs in swimming and basketball.
- We are awaiting a decision from the PIHL about Monday's Penguin Cup and will notify the hockey team and fans as soon as we hear the plan.
- All district non-essential large group activities and gatherings will also be postponed. This includes the elementary STEM Maker Fair night that was scheduled at Gill Hall, and the TJHS Spring Musical. More information will follow regarding rescheduling and potential refunds.

**To be clear, we are not closing any school in the West Jefferson Hills School District, nor have we received any direction to do so at this time.** I am scheduled to participate in a webinar tomorrow morning with the Pennsylvania Department of Education to receive further information and direction about the continued education of our students. The District will continue to monitor the situation daily and provide updates as soon as they are available. While I realize some may view these measures as extreme, I don't think we can risk the health and wellbeing of our children and community at any expense given how quickly things have progressed. The Allegheny County Health Department has been very clear about avoiding large group activities and gatherings where vulnerable populations might get exposed to the virus. I realize that this situation is very fluid and difficult to track. We will do everything we can to get you the most up to date information as we receive it. Additional resources and information are available on our District website.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to maintain a healthy and safe environment for our students, staff, and community members.

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael Ghilani