



Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope everyone was able to have a Happy Holiday season and New Year. I'm hoping that we are able to get back to some sense of normalcy in 2021. The past nine months have been trying and challenging for everyone. What I can tell you is that I couldn't be prouder of our staff and community for pulling together and making it as successful as possible. I'm confident if we continue working together, we will continue to have success moving forward. Now that we are essentially coming back from a three week hiatus from any in-person instruction or activities, I do think there are a few things to be mindful of before sending your kids back to school.

- If you or anyone in your household is experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID at this time, please have them participate remotely until testing is done or symptoms disappear.
- If anyone in your household is ever experiencing a loss of smell or taste, DO NOT send your kids to school. Follow the protocol and get them tested to determine when/if it is safe for them to be in school.
- Please remind your children to never attend a practice or game if they are not feeling well. What was acceptable in the past, could now cost an entire team two weeks of their season or the opportunity to participate in a post-season.

Our immediate plan is to return to school in the same model that we were in prior to the one week closure on December 14. What this means for each school is as follows:

- **High School** : Hybrid Model (Monday is a Dignity day)
- **PHMS** : Hybrid Model (Monday is a Dignity day)
- **JHIS**: 5 days a week in-person
- **K-2**: 5 days a week in person

Of course, those students still wishing to continue in full-time Canvas or the WJHSD Cyber Academy will be able to do so. **Please notify your principal if your child will be utilizing a different model than they were in prior to the one week closure on December 14.** All athletics and activities will also be able to start on Monday, January 4 as well. Getting all of our students back to school for five days of in-person instruction remains our goal. We will continue to monitor local, county, and state metrics and along with the Allegheny County Health Department determine when it is safe to bring back the middle and high school. I will also notify staff and parents when a building's 14 day rolling average is approaching the threshold for any type of temporary closure. As always, feel free to email or call me with any questions or concerns. Thank you again for your continued support throughout the challenges of the past nine months. While I realize that every decision can't possibly make everyone happy, I would hope that our parents do realize we are operating in what we feel to be in the best interest of all of our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael P. Ghilani".

Dr. Michael P. Ghilani