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WEST ELIZABETH - JEFFERSON HILLS - PLEASANT HILLS

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JADE FIORE

Supervisor of Special Education/Pupil Personnel

March 26, 2020

Letter to Parents of Students with Special Needs

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your family are doing well during this unprecedented time! As you are all aware, the COVID-19 restrictions implemented by Governor Wolf have placed school districts in the unprecedented situation of school closures until at least April 6, 2020.

Beginning March 30, 2020, the West Jefferson Hills School District will begin providing on-line instruction to all of our students in order to provide continuity of educational services during the school closure. The School District will continue to provide your child with a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) during this time. Students with disabilities will also have access to online instructional materials through (Google Classroom, Google Hangout, etc). Related Services, including occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and language will continue to be provided through (Google Classroom, Google Hangout, etc). Your child's special education teacher and related service providers will contact families to discuss these services.

During group services through an on-line platform, it is not possible to ensure student privacy. During virtual group instruction, student's names and faces may appear on a screen. Further, the virtual group/individual instruction format could provide opportunities for individuals in other student's households to observe the therapy sessions. As a reminder, the district will not share health and educational information with third parties without written parental consent. This letter serves to notify our families of the district's good faith effort to provide therapies and opportunities for socialization during this unique time.

The district plans to move forward with providing group virtual instruction (projected to begin April 6, 2020), when appropriate, unless the district receives written notification of a family's desire to opt out due to privacy concerns. By allowing your child to participate in group virtual instruction you agree and understand that your child may be viewed by others in the course of the delivery of services. If you do not consent, please contact me via email at jfiore@wjhsd.net.

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 x2226.

Thank you for your patience during this challenging time. As additional information becomes available, we will keep you updated. If you have any concerns about your ability to access online programming or virtual services, please contact your child's special education teacher to discuss resources and/or alternatives for the implementation of your child's program. Please feel free to contact me via email at jfiore@wjhsd.net.

Sincerely,

Jade Fiore

Supervisor of Special Education/Pupil Service

jfiore@wjhsd.net

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