



# WORCESTER CENTRAL SCHOOL

198 Main St., Worcester, NY 12197  
Phone (607) 397-8785 • Fax (607) 397-9454  
[www.worcestercs.org](http://www.worcestercs.org)

---

March 13, 2020

Dear Worcester School Community,

As we all know the COVID-19 situation is highly evolving. As of this afternoon and at the request of the Otsego and Schoharie County Departments of Health, all public schools in Otsego and Schoharie County will be closing for two weeks. **Beginning Monday, March 16th Worcester Central School will be closed until March 29, 2020.** This decision was made in an abundance of caution, in hopes to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our area. All students and non-essential staff need to stay home during this time period.

In preparation of this event our administrative team made a plan this week for a possible extended school closing. We altered the activities of our regularly scheduled Superintendent's Conference Day, to provide teachers time to plan learning opportunities that students could do from home in the event of a school closure. We surveyed the 7-12 students this week to assess internet capability. As a result, our dedicated teachers designed learning activities for PK-12 students both with and without internet access. The activities also take into consideration students at all varying academic levels. While we acknowledge there are instructional limits to this method, we feel it is important to offer some type of academic continuity in the event of a school closing.

Today, we met with local county health department representatives to get further guidance on how to best protect our students and the overall school community. As recommended by local and state health officials, the NYS Education Department, and the Governor, we will be implementing immediate social distancing protocols in order to minimize the risk for our students and the school community.

The following protocols will be **effective as of 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2020**, and until further notice:

• **All Public events will be cancelled until further evaluation, including:**

- 3/21 Indoor Soccer Tournament
- 3/28 Indoor Yard Sale/Bake Sale
- 3/28 Youth Futsol Tournament
- 3/31 Billy Martin's Cole All-Star Circus
- 4/3 Baseball Clinic (WCS Sports Booster)
- 4/11 Alumni Basketball Game

- **All field trips and conferences are cancelled, including:**
  - Baseball Hall of Fame (5th grade)
  - Music Department Band Trip
  - Junior Leadership Conference
  - Envirothon Competition
  - Olympic for Visual Arts
  
- **All athletic competitions, both home and away, are cancelled until April 14th.** Practices will resume when school reopens. There will be no weekend practices.

In the event that a student or staff member does have a confirmed case of the coronavirus we are required by New York State to close for a period of 24 hours so that the building can be sanitized. The New York Department of Health will evaluate the situation and determine if a longer closure is needed.

We realize that in order to preserve the health and safety of our students and the school community that there may be some disappointment in light of the recent changes. However, as always, student and staff safety are the most important and driving factor behind every decision, even those that are difficult.

The COVID-19 situation is extremely fluid and rapidly changing. We will continue to do our best to keep you up to date in this ever-changing situation. On behalf of our Worcester Central School staff I want to thank you for your continued patience and support as we navigate these uncertain times.

Respectfully,



Tim Gonzales