



WORCESTER CENTRAL SCHOOL

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May 1, 2020

Dear WCS Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter continues to find you safe and healthy. As you may know, today the Governor extended our school closure through the end of the school year. I will be the first to admit this was not the school year any of us could have ever imagined. As the year has unfolded, I can assure you that all of us at Worcester Central School share in your frustration and disappointment. I believe our staff has done an exceptional job switching to an entirely new learning model and equally, so have you and your children. All of this was done with little time to prepare, limited direction, and under global pressures much larger than our school community.

I applaud you as parents, guardians and caregivers who have adapted to the many changes, have established at home learning schedules, spent hours assisting your children with new learning platforms, and all the while remaining patient and supportive to WCS. We could not ask for anything more from you, so please accept our most sincere gratitude and respect for your effort and partnership.

In addition to the extended closure there are a few other important updates.

- **August Regents.** The NYS Education has canceled all of the August regents exams.
- **Budget and budget votes.** The Governor has shared on many occasions that the state is in a significant financial shortfall and that education will be negatively impacted. We are waiting to hear on the additional budget decreases on schools. The decrease in state funds to schools will impact the development of the 2020-21 WCS budget. Our goal is to offer our students the best academic programming possible within the newly delivered financial restraints. The Governor has also declared June 9, 2020, as the date for school budget votes. Votes will be made by absentee ballot and more information will be provided.
- **Cancellation of remaining school events.** Regretfully, due to the extended closure all WCS extracurricular activities and events will be canceled for the remainder of the school year. However, we are committed to a graduation of some kind! We continue to seek guidance on the safe procedures to provide our graduating Class of 2020 the graduation recognition they deserve for their tremendous accomplishment. More information will be provided as soon as it becomes available.
- **Continuity of learning.** We will continue to provide learning opportunities under our continuity of learning plan so that our students are prepared for the next grade level or post-secondary learning. If you need any assistance for your child please let us know. We are more than happy to help!
- **Fourth quarter and year end grades.** As was previously shared, 4th quarter grades will be 'Pass' or 'Fail' as demonstrated by a student's evidence of learning. All year end grades will be calculated using the numerical averages from the first 3 quarters of the school year. Teachers will continue to assist students remotely in their academic efforts for the remainder of the school year.
- **Meal deliveries.** Any family currently receiving weekly meals will continue to receive them throughout the closure. If you are in need of meals for your child please contact Joe Calleja jcalleja@worcestercs.org for more information.
- **Child care for Essential Workers.** If you are an Essential Worker in need of child care in order to perform your job functions while away from the home, please contact us so that we can share local resources that may be able to assist.

On behalf of all of us at Worcester Central School I would like to again thank you for your continued flexibility, support and patience during this ever changing time. Should you have any questions or need assistance please call (607) 397-8785. We are happy to help in any way that we can. Please stay healthy and safe!

Respectfully,
Tim Gonzales
Superintendent