



WORCESTER CENTRAL SCHOOL

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

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Dear Worcester School Community,

I want to share a very important update. As mentioned before, school safety is our absolute top priority. That safety includes the physical, social, and emotional well-being of every WCS student and staff member. Since the pandemic began, our focus has been to deliver the highest quality of education possible, while keeping everyone at WCS completely safe whether in-person or remote.

Our goal since the beginning of this school year was to resume in-person learning for all WCS students. We recognize the overwhelming importance and benefits that in-person learning offers our students. However, this is only accomplished when students and staff can be safe in their learning environment. Additionally, the 'yo-yo' of transitioning from in-person to remote, and vice versa, is frustrating for everyone and only adds more stress.

Since Sunday we have experienced an increase of COVID-19 positive cases within our building. This week communication with the state and local department of health has occurred daily and we have continued to learn that the Worcester community has become a main source of new COVID-19 positives in our county. After many conversations with other school leaders, officials from both the NYS and Otsego County Departments of Health and careful and thoughtful consideration; ***WCS will remain remote for the week of January 19th through January 22nd (Monday, January 18th there is no school in recognition of Martin Luther King Junior Day).***

We will continue with the current schedules which remain available on our website and all BOCES students will continue attending their programs. Meals for students will also remain available, please contact jcalleja@worcestercs.org for more information.

I know this is very disappointing news, but our hope is that over the next week the community COVID-19 spread, especially among students, will lessen and we can avoid cycling from in-person to remote learning at a moment's notice. I apologize for any inconvenience this causes but given the current COVID-19 cases in the immediate community it is necessary to help keep our students and staff safe. I thank you for your continued patience, support, and flexibility; and I wish each of you to remain safe and in good health.

Respectfully,

Tim Gonzales
Superintendent