

November 18, 2020

Dear WCS Parents & Students:

I would like to wish everyone in our WCS community a happy and safe Thanksgiving. With the holidays approaching, it is important to acknowledge the things in our lives that we are grateful for. At WCS, we are extremely grateful for the excellent job our students, parents, and staff have done to ensure a safe learning environment that has allowed in-person instruction to continue for the past few months. Since the experience of in-person learning is so valuable to our students, we want to do everything possible to ensure that we are able to continue with this mode of instruction as long as it is safe to do so. **At this time, the district plans to continue in-person instruction up to and after the upcoming Thanksgiving break.** The district will always be transparent and provide as much notice as possible in the event that there is a school closure. **Again, please note that there is no planned school closure at this time.**

In order to maintain our in-person model, we must continue to be vigilant in following the health and safety protocols that are in place both inside and outside of school. If everyone continues to do their part, the likelihood of continued in-person learning is greatly increased. Ignoring the recommendations in place, especially with increased travel and gatherings during the holiday season, could jeopardize our ability to continue in-person learning in the future.

Unfortunately, as we approach Thanksgiving break, COVID cases are on the rise. We know that families are grappling with difficult decisions in order to find the best ways to celebrate this holiday safely. **As you make your holiday plans, please keep in mind that Governor Cuomo has announced that private gatherings should have no more than 10 individuals.**

Additionally, if families travel out of New York State for more than 24 hours, the Governor has issued new protocols and quarantine orders which will clarify the steps necessary in order for your students to return to school. **If you travel outside of New York State, please make sure you are fully aware of the quarantine requirement or testing option when you return to New York State.** Refer to the following website for the latest information - <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>. If you or a family member are required to quarantine, that person will not be able to return to campus either as a student or an employee until they successfully complete their quarantine or COVID test requirement.

For the safety of our school community, I also urge you to continue maintaining the protocols that we all know have helped keep COVID-19 from spreading in our community. These protocols include social distancing, frequently washing hands, and wearing a face covering in public.

If you have any further questions, about any of these updates or any other school issues, please contact us by phone at (518) 963-4456 or email at district@willsborocsd.org. Happy Thanksgiving and thank you all for your continued cooperation and support as we work together through this unique school year!

Best Regards and Take Care,



Justin M. Gardner
Superintendent of Schools