

May 8, 2020

Families,

You may or may not be aware that this week has been teacher appreciation week. Usually we have a lot of internal celebrations and recognize not only our teachers, but the entire staff for the work they do with our children. With that being said I thought it was only appropriate to acknowledge the parents, families, and students because you have been an extension to our teaching from home. Thank you for all you have done for the children of WHSD during these difficult times.

We all realize that remote learning is not for everyone and this time period can become stressful on family's. We encourage any parent or student that may become elevated in stress to reach out to their teacher or principal so that we can talk about how we may be able to decrease some of the pressures and end the year on a positive note.

We continue to meet regularly as an administration team to discuss how we can best support families during remote instruction. Next week we will begin discussions regarding what the next school year may look like and how we can better our instruction either in the classroom or from home. It is our hope that an antibody or vaccine will soon be available so that restrictions can start to be lifted and schools can open up again.

We will continue our food distribution on Monday's and Thursday's for the remainder of the school year. If your family is experiencing a hardship due to the pandemic I have attached a flyer from the State of Illinois on how to apply for relief and benefits via EBT (P-EBT) and SNAP.

As a recap, here are the three priorities moving forward:

Priority 1 – Continue with remote learning for the remainder of the school year. Continue food distribution to all children under the age of 18 through the remainder of the school year.

Priority 2 - Communicate plans for families and students in regards to student locker/material pick up. Picking up yearbooks, cap and gowns for 8th graders, the returning of library books, and many others. Holding a remote awards and graduation ceremony

Priority 3 – Thanking parents, families, and students for being an at-home teacher during these difficult times.

As always, it's important we continue to work together and support our students. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey McCartney