



March 12, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you are aware, the situation with COVID-19 coronavirus is constantly evolving and changing. New information is released several times a day and we will continue to keep you updated and informed as much as possible. As we move into a long weekend, I wanted to provide you with the most current information that we have at this time.

**Field Trips** – As of today, we have canceled out-of-state field trips and we are also canceling in-state field trips through April 17, 2020. This is being done as a precautionary measure until we have more information from our state and local agencies about the movement of the virus, etc. If your child was scheduled to attend a field trip during this window, you will receive more information directly from the teacher or advisor. We will reevaluate field trips scheduled after April 17<sup>th</sup> over the coming weeks, as we do not want to make premature decisions.

That being said, there are other events that will go on as scheduled until further notice. We are working with staff to determine how to handle these cases, as every circumstance is different.

**Could the schools close?** As we have seen, many colleges are beginning to suspend all face-to-face classes due to recent travel over spring break. **Closing our schools would be a last resort** and would be a decision that is made after direct consultation with the PA Dept. of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Blair County Emergency Management, and other Blair County school districts. With that said, we must be realistic that the possibility of closing schools for a time does exist. We are working with staff to develop plans for this situation. We are also aware that closing our schools would create a whole new set of challenges for families. If this becomes something that we must seriously consider, you will be notified in advance.

**What about students and staff with underlying fragile conditions?** Students and staff with underlying health conditions should continue to be in consultation with their physicians about the best courses of action to take.

**When should my child stay home?** As stated in earlier communications, please keep children who are sick home from school. If your child is exhibiting symptoms of coughing, a fever, or other cold/flu symptoms, it is recommended that your child stay home. A reminder that children who are sick should not return to school until they are fever-free for at least 24-hours following the illness. The CDC reports that COVID-19 is transmitted from person to person and can present mild to severe respiratory symptoms.

**My family has recently traveled, what should we do?** If your family has recently traveled or plans to travel, please read and pay attention to the advisories from the CDC and Department of Health. Because many symptoms do not appear for up to 14 days, you should carefully monitor the health of your entire family upon your return.

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**How is the District preventing the spread of the virus?** TASD is following the suggestions of the CDC and PA Department of Health to help limit the spread of the virus. Therefore, we have implemented the following measures (this is not an exhaustive list): monitoring absentee patterns, increased diligence with the cleaning and sanitizing of common “touch points” (handrails, bathrooms, water fountains, etc.), encouraging staff and students to (1) practice proper and regular handwashing techniques, (2) avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth, (3) stay home when you are sick.

As previously stated, we will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation carefully and update you as new information becomes available. We appreciate your attention to your own health and the health of your children. It takes a team effort to help minimize the spread of illness.

Sincerely,

Leslie Estep  
Acting Superintendent

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