



WEST HAVEN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

"Schools Committed to Excellence"

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NEIL C. CAVALLARO

Superintendent of Schools

March 11, 2020

Dear Staff, Parents, and Guardians,

I am writing to update you on our efforts to monitor the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Disease, and to provide you with the latest information available. At this time, while we have not made a decision to close schools, our curriculum coordinators and some teaching staff are developing learning packages with books and activities for students so we are prepared. However, be aware, that closing schools and providing distance learning opportunities will not automatically mean a waiver of the 180 school day requirement. All staff and students should, therefore, plan to be in attendance until late June, and even possibly during the Spring Recess (April 13 – 17), as necessary.

In the coming days and weeks, there were many activities planned for both during and after-school hours. All extracurricular events have been postponed indefinitely. We will make every effort possible to make them up, but there is no guarantee. Once again, we will follow the appropriate protocols, consult with city and state officials, and use the latest information available prior to making any decision. For specific events, the individual schools will send out notification, if and when the events will take place. We will also be notifying all outside groups who use our facilities that they will no longer be available after April 1st. This will allow winter youth sports leagues to complete their seasons, but more importantly, give our custodial staff

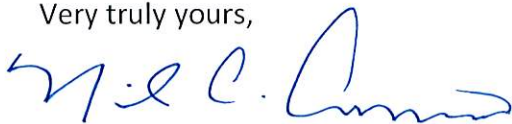
ample time to clean the buildings once the school day is completed. As you all know by now, the CIAC has made the determination to cancel all of their winter sports tournaments. This school district will take direction from that organization, and we will follow their guidance with regards to all spring sports.

Our administrative team has requested that we limit the use of drinking fountains. While students may use them in extreme cases, we are recommending that you send your child to school each day with bottled water or a water bottle using tap water from home. We will also be encouraging children to practice good hygiene by washing their hands, and limiting contact with others.

Lastly, all field trips that are taking place out-of-state have been cancelled, and those planned within Connecticut will be reviewed on a case by case basis. I have asked our administrators to have teachers requesting permission to resubmit their requests, and make a case as to why they believe it would be safe to attend, for example an outdoor activity or an event exclusive to our students may be acceptable.

I will continue to provide you updates as new information becomes available and as always, if you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact your school administrators or my office directly.

Very truly yours,



Neil C. Cavallaro
Superintendent of Schools