

Washington County Public Schools

812 Thompson Drive, Abingdon, Virginia 24210
Telephone: (276) 739-3000 FAX: (276) 628-1874

BRIAN C. RATLIFF, ED.D.
Superintendent

JEFF NOE, ED.D.
Assistant Superintendent

THE SCHOOL BOARD
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March 11, 2020

Dear School Community Members:

We so appreciate your patience and support as we continue to consider potential challenges in our school communities related to planning for Coronavirus (COVID-19). We have two important updates:

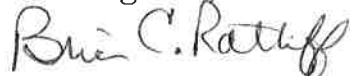
1. **Friday, March 20 will be designated a student holiday.** This student holiday will provide an opportunity for our staff to prepare for the possibility of distance learning to include a variety of formats based on available resources in the unlikely event of school closure. We will receive our guidance from the Virginia Department of Health IF a decision to close one or more schools is under consideration. We will use this day as a staff training and preparation day. All staff will report to work.

All after-school extracurricular activities on March 20, including interscholastic contests and team practices, will proceed as scheduled. Additionally, programs and community use by outside groups not affiliated with WCPS will proceed as scheduled.

2. In conjunction with guidance from the Virginia Department of Health, we have cancelled all out-of-state and overnight field trips for the foreseeable future. All regional day trips will be handled on a case-by-case basis. We recognize that the decision to cancel overnight field trips may be disappointing; however, the decision is made in an abundance of caution and in a precautionary manner to help ensure the safety and well-being of students, colleagues and members of our school community.

We will continue to monitor the situation and communicate any additional information with our school community.

Best Regards,



Dr. Brian C. Ratliff
Superintendent