

Dear Wilmington Families,

Above and beyond anything else, I hope that this finds you and your family safe, healthy and well. These are challenging times for us all and the health and well-being of our students, families and staff remains a priority for us.

Following the extended closure of schools in Massachusetts through until May 4 by Governor Baker, the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) issued specific guidance for school districts to follow during this upcoming closure. Specifically, while the recommendations for districts for the first two weeks of closure centered around providing students enrichment activities, the most recent guidance requires school districts to transition to remote learning. You can read the press release from DESE attached to this email which was put together for families.

This past week considerable work has unfolded with our educators and school leaders in developing our WPS Remote Learning Plan that will provide educational programming and services consistent with the recent guidance from DESE. The WPS Remote Learning Plan will be phased in throughout the week of April 6 and in the weeks to come and additional information will be forthcoming in the next few days. And while our plan will attempt to provide a degree of structure, routine and the continuation of student learning, it simply cannot replace the regular school experience for our young people.

On this point, please let me be clear, our plan, like that of every district around us, will not have students "in virtual school" for six hours a day. What it will offer though will be a range of activities for students that, if followed, will approximate half of the school day and promote the reinforcement of skills along with other opportunities to engage in meaningful and productive experiences while our schools are not in session.

Please watch for additional information forthcoming at the beginning of next week from both the district as well as your school principal. I will also take this opportunity to remind you of our central location on our district website where you can find a collection of resource, links and materials related to this COVID-19 situation.

Until then, please stay well and safe, follow the guidelines put forth by our medical experts around social distancing, and know that our amazing staff is here for you and your child as we travel through these uncertain time together.

Yours in education,

*Glenn Brand
Superintendent of Schools*