



# West Canada Valley Central School District

*Committed to preparing responsible, caring and productive citizens.*

**DONALD J. SHEPARDSON**  
Superintendent

**KELLEY CROSSETT**  
Business Manager  
District Treasurer

**CORRENE M. HOLMES**  
Elementary Principal

**GLENN M. BROADBENT**  
Middle/High Principal

**EDMUND DOUGHERTY**  
Director of Special Programs  
Athletic Director

**FELIX W. RAY JR.**  
Transportation Supervisor

April 7, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians;

I hope that everyone is continuing to remain safe and healthy during this unprecedented time in our country. As we are now in our fourth week of mandated closure, the challenges everyone is facing at home are certainly growing. With information changing on a daily basis, we all struggle to establish a daily routine that keeps each of us safe while managing the everyday pressures of your child's education. With that said, I wanted to provide everyone with an update on where we stand with the current closure; and where this may go as we move forward.

When the closure began on March 16, 2020; no one knew exactly how long this closure would remain in effect. The first phase of our closure involved the probability that we may be closed through the scheduled spring break which was set to begin on April 3, 2020. With the closure happening so suddenly, the district followed the guidance of our state education leaders and provided students, parents, and guardians with educational material that would hopefully maintain some educational stability over a two-week period. Our hope at this time, was the district would reach spring break and we would reopen on April 14, 2020. It was during this time, the district and its staff began setting up our remote instructional tools. In addition, the district began the process of identifying parents/guardians that are in need of devices and internet service.

On March 27, 2020; the Governor announced that the closure would be extended through April 15, 2020 and schools will continue to provide instruction, nutrition, and childcare options through the scheduled spring break. This was a new order that was a change from the initial guidance provided from the state level. Since this announcement; the district has moved to the next phase of this closure from an educational standpoint. This past week you received several calls that announced the requirement for remote instruction to continue. Since those announcements, your child has received invites to join remote classrooms predominately under the title *Google Classroom*. In addition, the district has begun the process of providing various levels of new instruction, requiring increased teacher-student communication/feedback, and an increase in student work submissions. Teachers have begun consistent communication with students while providing feedback on their submitted work. This will look a little different for each of your children, as we certainly have to adjust instruction to the appropriate level for each age, grade, and/or subject area. You may also have teachers contacting you by phone and sending hardcopy material in the mail. The district has begun the process of delivering educational materials and will continue throughout the closure. Although we are in the initial stages, the early response from our students has been very positive. It is our hope that this will become more comfortable for our students and families as we navigate this closure.

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On April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020; the Governor extended the school closure through April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020. In addition, all Regents Exams were cancelled for June 2020. Spring sports have again been postponed until April 29, 2020, to align with the new closure requirement. With the cancelation of Regents Exams, the Board of Regents will be adjusting typical graduation and credit requirements. Guidance for each state school district is expected in the coming days and weeks. Once the district receives this guidance, it will be shared with staff, students, and parents/guardians.

The district understands that all of these changes present real life challenges at home and we are here to assist in any way possible. A list of each instructor's email is available on our webpage. If you are unable to reach the instructor in this format, please email or call your child's principal. **Under the current conditions, electronic communication is your best strategy to receive a more efficient response.** In addition, the district is using the webpage and social media to reach out to families in need of devices and internet service options. In the event we are not able to work together to correct this issue, your child will receive the same educational material in an alternative format. The district will work with each family to be sure all families are comfortable with the educational structure that is required under the current conditions.

There are obvious questions regarding field trips, prom, and various graduation/moving-up ceremonies. These are all important events that are or have the potential to be sadly affected by this virus.

- As mentioned, Regents Exams have been cancelled for June. The district will provide further details as information is provided.
- All field trips have been cancelled for the remainder of this school year including the senior trip. The district is working on getting all refunds associated with the required cancellations.
- The prom scheduled for May 2, 2020 has been postponed. In the event we are permitted to reopen and large gatherings are permitted, we will revisit this event. I realize that many parents/guardians have an investment in this event and I wanted to provide you with the most updated information so you are able to make individual family decisions.
- There is no information on June Graduation and Moving-up ceremonies at this time. We will continue to follow the guidance that is provided at the state and federal level. If permitted to do so, the district has every intention of providing a graduation ceremony for deserving seniors and families. The date and format in which this will be permitted is to be determined. We share your hope that we will be at a point in June to hold our ceremony. If not, we will make the necessary adjustments to make this a special day when it is safe again.
- All music events have postponed until further notice.
- All sports have been postponed until April 29<sup>th</sup>. Updates to this postponement will be provided.
- The campus and facilities remain closed until further information is provided.



- Again, I stress that under the current conditions please use electronic communication as much as possible. This is the best way to communicate and receive information in a timely manner. With information changing daily, this is the only way the district can keep the educational community updated in an efficiently.

Please know administration, faculty, and staff are here to support all families during this challenging crisis. We continue to post information on our webpage, social media, and through our emergency call system on a regular basis. This includes resources for parents/guardians to support the remote instruction taking place at home. **The district understands and supports the need for a good balance of school work and recreation for all of our district families. Please do not lose sight of this as curriculum is provided.** If you are in need of assistance, do not hesitate to contact the district office at 315-845-6800. Please stay healthy and safe, and whenever possible stay home. Take care.

Sincerely,



D.J. Shepardson - Superintendent