



To provide a comprehensive education for all students to become successful critical thinkers as they enter a global society.

Helen K. McCracken, Ed.D.
Superintendent
PO Box 472
Waynesburg PA 15370
hmccracken@cgsd.org
Phone: 724.627.8151
Fax: 724.627.9591

March 17, 2020

Dear Families and Community Members,

We appreciate your patience in these unprecedented times as we work together to fight the pandemic caused by the coronavirus.

Prior to the Governor closing school for two weeks, the Central Greene School District took the following measures in an abundance of caution to keep our students safe, which are in place beyond the current two week closure: all co-curricular activities including field trips, athletics and outside groups using our facilities are suspended until at least April 14, 2020 at which time we will revisit this timeframe.

Regarding personal hygiene to help stop the spread of the disease, we advocate for social distancing and encourage you to follow the steps listed on a previous CGSD website post:

- *Cover your coughs and sneezes: cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze with your inner elbow or shirt sleeve
- * **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.** Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- *Avoid sharing personal household items: You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, or eating utensils with other people.

The 175 square miles of the district, as well as the school community does not have Internet access for everyone. We will not be providing online instruction because *by law* we must provide the same and equal opportunities for **every child** including those without Internet access and those with special needs. At this time, we do not have the resources in the county to provide online learning equitably. Further, the question was asked, "Are schools required to provide any type of instruction during the closure of schools due to COVID-19 response efforts?" The answer from the Pennsylvania Department of Education was, "No."

The Pennsylvania Department of Education said it "will not penalize districts that fail to meet the 180 day minimum requirements as a result of the COVID-19 response efforts." What it does not tell you is that by law school districts have until June 30 to make up all school days. Unless the Governor lifts that requirement to make up days until June 30 (and he has not yet done so), we will have to follow the law to use the days of Spring break in April as well as days in June to make up any days that are suspended because of the pandemic. Unless you are told otherwise, please plan accordingly.

The Central Greene School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, disability, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational or employment policies.

Our schools are being cleaned. If your child is in need of something, they can access the school building during the hours of 9 AM to 11 AM to retrieve their books and belongings. If this is the case, please access quickly and quietly and after signing in with the office.

We have applied for permission to serve bagged lunches in a "grab and go" fashion. The locations for this program will be at Waynesburg Central Elementary School and Margaret Bell Middle School. The hours will be from approximately 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM for children aged 18 years old and under. Hopefully, by the time this letter reaches you, or shortly thereafter, that plan will be in place.

Our school nurses have volunteered to communicate with families of children with medication in school. That communication should be forthcoming if it applies to your family. If you have not received information about your children in this regard, please contact your school.

The administration is in communication with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and other relevant sources to stay up to date on information relevant to our district. As a school district we are closely monitoring the situation and taking guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, educational entities throughout the state and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Hopefully, this is a once in a lifetime situation. It is ever-evolving. There are questions that have no answers as of yet. We ask for your patience as this evolves. We are working diligently to care for all of our school community.

Further information will be placed on our website and sent through our one call system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helen K. McCracken". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Helen K. McCracken, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Together We Rise