

**Wellsville Secondary School Update**  
**April 2, 2020**

**Our First Steps.**

- On Sunday, March 15, 2020 we were notified that in response to COVID-19 our school and others would be directly impacted and student attendance in school would be affected.
- At the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, our focus as a district was on the well-being of our students and community. Efforts to connect with each student began immediately. We checked in with every student making a personal connection and launched a meal pick-up and delivery system that has provided thousands of meals to students.
- We also began to roll out instruction. We intentionally planned to ease into “remote learning” so that students and families were not overwhelmed as we all adjusted. While getting things started, teachers planned for the possibility that the school closure would continue into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.
- While some students have adjusted more readily to the circumstances than others, we continue to acknowledge and remain mindful that the school closure has had an unprecedented impact on the lives of all students and their families.

**Closing out the 3rd Marking Period**

- Under the circumstances, and in the interest of fairness to kids, the last progress report period will form the base grade for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. (Progress report grades were submitted on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Our last day with students was March 13<sup>th</sup>.)
- Given instruction and assignments during the initial school closure was in large supplemental (geared toward reinforcement and review); it was not negatively entered into the final 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter grades. Students in College and Advanced Placement (A.P.) courses, however, were assigned new instruction and graded projects on new content. Therefore, all *student work in College and A.P. courses during the closure may be computed in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter final grades.* (College and A.P. course grades will close on 4/3/20, as scheduled).
- Report card grades for the 3rd quarter will be available on the student and parent portal by the end of the school day on April 13, 2020.

***Please see the FAQ Update for additional information.***

## **Frequently Asked Questions (Grades 6-12)**

**As of April 2, 2020**

### **When will we return to school?**

Our return date will depend on the Governor's orders and local health department directives. At this point, the Governor has ordered schools remain closed until April 15, 2020. We will keep you informed as we learn additional information. Although we are not sure when we will be back together – we are sure we look forward to it!

### **How are students receiving “remote” instruction during these times?**

Each Secondary School student has a District issued iPad. Students may use their iPads to stay in touch with teachers and other school staff. Students will also be able to use their iPads to receive lessons from teachers, take part in class activities, and work on projects. Teachers have identified the specific electronic platforms they will use to deliver lessons.

### **How can I find out more about the platforms used?**

The resources included with this mailing provide you information related to, among other things, the instructional platforms.

### **Will I know what platforms my child's teacher will utilize?**

The enclosed flyers and course charts are intended to help parents, guardians and students better understand the digital tools teachers will use to facilitate remote learning. The Chart shows what platforms will be used for each course. We will work to keep you informed of any changes as new platforms may become available to the District.

### **My child knows how to use an iPad, but what about the digital platform?**

The kids are familiar with the digital platforms and platform tools, as well as their iPads. If any students encounter difficulties with either their school issued iPad or the platforms, they should contact their teacher. If additional help is needed, the teacher will have our Technology “IT” department assist the student, or the student may contact the I.T. department directly at [techs@wlsv.org](mailto:techs@wlsv.org).

### **Do the iPads have filters?**

District issued iPads have the same content filtering and restrictions in place at home as in school. However, student use of technology resources (including District issued iPads) should be supervised. Although we don't anticipate filtering issues, if you become aware of a problem, please contact your child's teacher or a school administrator so that we may work with you to resolve it.

**Are students expected to complete assignments teachers have posted or emailed them?**

Yes. We expect students will participate in instruction (though it will look different to them) to the best of their ability. Although the initial school closure was an adjustment period with supplemental instruction, starting April 6, teachers will continue with class curriculums, including new material with instructional feedback.

**What if my child has trouble completing school work at home?**

Just as if school were open, in instances where a student may find it challenging to complete his or her work – teachers and school counselors will reach out to the student, and if appropriate, will reach out to the student’s parents/guardians to support the student. Learning to be responsible for school work is a part of learning, but we will be available to support your child, and we will remain mindful of these difficult circumstances.

**Will assignments during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter count in my child’s 4<sup>th</sup> quarter grade?**

Yes. Students should expect that assignments may be used in the future to determine their grades.

**As a parent, am I expected to be my child’s teacher?**

It is an understatement to say that the school closure and pandemic has been stressful for families. Our teachers continue to be your child’s teachers. And, we will do our very best to meet your child’s needs. We do ask, however, if you become aware of any particular problems associated with your child’s learning, that you will contact the teacher, a counselor or administrator so we may help. Although we know you will help and support your child as you do when school is open, we do not expect you to be their teachers.

**My child is a Senior. Will he/she be able to graduate?**

Yes. The rules and eligibility requirements for graduation have not changed. We look forward to celebrating the Class of 2020!! They are outstanding individuals who are setting an example for our younger students as our school and community are impacted by COVID-19. The Class of 2020 has had to face disappointments that no other graduating class has faced – and they have done so with grace and maturity.

**My child is a senior, but I’m worried he/she may not be able to meet graduation requirements given the school closure.**

We will continue to provide instruction through the closure. Our school counselors will work with the seniors to support their efforts to graduate, on-time, in June. It is essential, however, that seniors work regularly with their teachers and make sure as we move through the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, that they are meeting course requirements to earn credit toward graduation. This will be the case whether the school closure is extended or we return to school. In any case, we will be encouraging seniors to finish the year strong!

### **What happens if I do not have Internet access at home?**

We are aware Internet availability is a concern for some families. Although not a perfect solution, the District has provided a boosted internet signal available to students at the secondary school campus. The bus loop and front edge of the main parking lot, and the entrance end of the riverside parking lot has full coverage. Vehicles parked in these areas will have access to the school Wi-Fi network and students can connect with their iPads there. We have also set up a guest network for non-school devices that is accessible in these areas. If your child has trouble connecting, he/she should contact their teacher. If needed, the teacher will contact our I.T. department for assistance.

Please keep in mind – students are to remain in their own family vehicles (or vehicle they are traveling in) and not to move to other vehicles.

### **Is internet access available elsewhere?**

We have been informed that as of Monday, March 16th, students who do not have Internet access at their homes can call “Spectrum” at (855) 243-8892 to inquire about possible free or reduced rate internet availability during the school shut down. This arrangement would be between your family and Spectrum.

We have also been informed that Verizon and perhaps other mobile device services may be offering special deals on hotspots (Wi-Fi via a cellular connected device) or will provide increased data at a reduced rate, so that a mobile device may be used as an internet hotspot. You should contact your service providers to inquire about any such offers that may be available to you. Again, the arrangement would be between your family and your service provider.

### **If I have problems with my district iPad, what do I do?**

If able, you should contact your teacher. You may also email [techs@wlsv.org](mailto:techs@wlsv.org) with your concern and our technology team will assist you. If you are unable to access email, call 596-2182 or 596-2143 (leave a brief message, your name and call back number and the IT department will contact you to assist.)

### **Will there be NYS Common Core Exams in Grades 3-8 this spring?**

At this point, the New York State Department of Education has “suspended” testing for English, Math and Science. As more information is available, we will update you.

### **Will there be Advanced Placement Exams this spring?**

Yes. The College Board has announced plans to administer this year’s AP Exams online. Students enrolled in AP Courses will receive specific information as it becomes available.

### **Will there be Regents Exams this year?**

At this point, yes. We plan to administer Regents Exams. If this changes, we will let you know. We have been advised, however, to plan for them. Students should keep Regents Exams as well as local exams and projects in mind as they move through the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and approach “the finish line” to the school year!

### **Will my child be prepared for the June Regents Exams?**

Students scheduled to take a June Regents Exam will receive instruction from their teacher starting April 6, 2020 to advance the sequence of curriculum toward the Regents. As when school is open, teachers will work with students toward strong Regents Exam results.

### **What about other courses; will my child receive new instruction?**

Although students have been receiving supplemental instruction, students in English 12 and Government/Economics Class (as well as Regents classes with exams) will receive new instruction around April 6. (College-Credit Courses, and Advanced Placement Courses have been receiving new instruction.)

Students in other classes will continue to be provided supplemental instruction with new instruction phased in as we move forward. It is our plan to provide continuity of instruction but steadily increase new content in courses while remaining mindful of the stresses caused by the closure and pandemic. Our goal is to keep students safe, engaged and learning as their school work intensifies.

### **What courses have a Regents Exam in June?**

The following courses have a Regents Exam in June:

- Physics (Typically 12th Grade)
- English Language Arts (Typically 11th Grade)
- United States History and Government (Typically 11th Grade)
- Chemistry (Typically 11th Grade)
- Algebra II (Typically 11th and 10th Grade)
- Global History and Geography II (Typically 10th Grade)
- Earth Science (Typically 10th Grade)
- Geometry (10th and 9th Grade)
- Algebra (Typically 10th, 9th, and 8th Grade)
- Living Environment (Typically 9th Grade)

### **When can I get materials and other personal items out of my locker?**

In the interest of community safety, the buildings remain restricted to students. We are not able to provide access to lockers or arrange for materials to be distributed at the present time.

**When will we know more?**

We will continue to keep you informed as we receive new information. In the meantime, please know that we will work hard to continue to provide education and support for the kids, while we look forward to being together again!