

WESTERN SCHOOL DISTRICT

1400 S. DEARING ROAD • PARMA, MICHIGAN 49269
Phone (517) 841-8100 • Fax (517) 841-8801

September 17, 2020

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RE: Virtual Wednesdays

Dear Western Families and Community Members:

Starting the week of September 28, 2020, every Wednesday until further notice will become a virtual half-day of learning for all students. We will continue to offer in-person, full day instruction on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, but starting **Wednesday, September 30th** there will be no in-person instruction for all Western students.

This change will help our staff better prepare for upcoming lessons, collaborate with their colleagues and connect with virtual students. From a student perspective, this will provide an opportunity to catch up or continue their assignments from previous days. While there will be an expectation for all students to connect virtually on Wednesdays, we are working with our teachers to ensure our students do not feel overwhelmed with the workload they already have.

We understand that this may cause some shifting in your plans for childcare and your family schedule. These types of changes are not taken lightly. As we have said before, this school year is a bit of a build-the-plane-as-you're-flying scenario. We are making real-time adjustments as we figure out what works best for students and staff in these less than ideal times. As required by state law, we will be re-evaluating our Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan on a monthly basis and making adjustments if necessary to our ever-changing environment. In early October, we will be sending out a parent feedback survey to get a comprehensive look at your feedback on what is and isn't working with our current plan.

As we continue to pivot and shift our plan, know that we are doing so with only the best interests of our students and staff in mind. We are learning what works, and what doesn't. As we gain this knowledge it is imperative that we continue to adjust to accommodate the needs of our learning community. We are all craving "normal" in our lives and hope that happens sooner than later. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Michael Smajda
Superintendent