

# WHARTON BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

[www.wbps.org](http://www.wbps.org)

“Learn to Thrive in a Dynamic World”

## Marie V. Duffy Elementary School

“Governor’s School of Excellence”

Pamela S. Blalock, Principal

## Alfred C. MacKinnon Middle School

Dr. Patrick Ketch, Principal

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Superintendent

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Business Administrator

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Director of Special Education  
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137 East Central Avenue  
Wharton, NJ 07885

March 9, 2020

Dear Student Families,

I am writing this letter to continue to keep the Wharton Borough Public School Community informed regarding district proactive actions and plans in response to COVID-19.

Since my February 27 letter, which remains on the district website, the New Jersey Department of Education has reversed its stance on permitting virtual learning options. Under their guidance, districts are now able to develop and submit a plan for approval for distance learning/flexible instruction days.

Distance learning is a tool now available to New Jersey public school entities to be used as an alternate approach to delivering instruction if a circumstance arises that prevents instruction in customary manner. Distance learning will allow the school to continue asynchronous instruction to students through our Google-based online learning infrastructure and our abundance of educational software programs.

I will be submitting the Wharton plan to the Department of Education for approval on Monday, March 9. Once approved, I will share a more detailed plan with student families and staff. The plan will afford students the opportunity to obtain instruction of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards while providing equitable access to instruction for all students, addressing the appropriate special education and related service needs for students with disabilities, as well as the provision of school nutrition benefits or services for eligible students.

Stressing that there is no immediate cause for alarm, I would like to share steps the district has proactively taken to combat and contain COVID-19.

The district has and will continue to:

- Regularly disinfect “high touch” surfaces.
- Disinfect entire classroom with the use of electrostatic sprayers.
- Communicate with health officials and emergency management teams.
- Provide COVID-19 information to student families via the district website.
- Reinforce hygiene practices with students.

While the threat remains low, and we hopefully will not need to adjust the education methods provided to the children of Wharton, I would like to provide a level of comfort in knowing that should this “worst-case scenario” come to fruition, the Wharton Borough Public School District is prepared to meet your children’s needs.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. Herdman  
Superintendent