

Dear WCSD Families:

Earlier I sent you an opportunity to participate in a ThoughtExchange as a way for you to provide feedback about what your children are experiencing during this extended closure, as well as how we can continue to support our students and families during this time. I hope you take a few moments to participate, because as we learned yesterday, Ohio's schools will not reopen the remainder of this academic year.

We were not at all surprised by the Governor's decision. In fact, the foundation we've established over the past few weeks was built to support an extended closure through the rest of the academic year. We anticipated that schools would remain closed, so if nothing else, it's a relief to hear this officially from the Governor. Now we, along with our families and staff, can plan accordingly.

If you do not have a 12th-grade student in your home, this is likely the first time you are hearing that we secured the weekend of June 26-27 as an alternative date for graduation at the Celeste Center. We remain optimistic that we will be able to hold a traditional graduation ceremony to celebrate the achievements of our Class of 2020, along with their families, yet this year. However, we also realize that even those alternative plans have a good chance of being impacted by future state decisions. Therefore, we continue to work with our Board of Education on some other ideas to celebrate the Class of 2020.

Regarding next school year, we had already established a team prior to the Governor's announcement that is tasked with working through what the start of the 2020-21 school year may look like. The first meeting of this group (virtual, of course) is this coming Thursday, so those conversations are set to begin this week. We also remain in touch with other school districts as our respective leadership teams discuss the parameters for next school year. School districts throughout the area continue to collaborate on how our educational systems can work to support our students and families during these most unusual times.

We will continue to share updates with you as additional plans and details are finalized. Until then, please stay safe. We truly appreciate your continued support and cooperation.

Sincerely,
Dr. John R. Kellogg
Superintendent