

Metropolitan School District of Warren County

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Parents/Guardians,

We are facing a national emergency as COVID-19, coronavirus, continues to spread. Warren County has not been impacted yet except for the panic and fear that is preceding this disease. Without a doubt, we will shortly begin seeing cases in our community.

The Fountain & Warren County Health Department has advised Warren County:

- Against any and all travel outside of the State of Indiana.
- Against any group gatherings in the bi-county area of over 10 people.

As safety precautions, the Health Department has asked for strict adherence to the following guidelines within your homes and in your daily actions:

- Stay home if you are feeling sick
- Wash hands frequently and appropriately
- Avoid touching your face
- Practice reasonable social distancing

Warren County Schools will attempt to follow these advisements as close as legally and prudently possible. At this time, our return from Spring Break remains Monday, March 30. Students and staff will not be prohibited from returning to school although we strongly encourage those traveling to consider self-quarantine to protect others and prevent the further spread of the coronavirus. Families should prepare for the possibility of this date changing should local health concerns escalate during the next two weeks.

Governor Holcomb recently granted schools a 20-day waiver of the required 180 instructional days for use as needed for the remainder of the academic year. The waived days do not need to be used consecutively and can be leveraged as needed. As a school corporation, we are not prepared to predict the upcoming weeks and announce the closing of our school buildings. Instructors will be given an opportunity to prepare meaningful lessons for students upon our return from Spring Break if necessary utilizing a portion of the 20-day waiver. Pick-up times will be arranged for student materials if a delay in our return to school is necessary.

E-Learning is a challenging and less than ideal substitute for direct instruction. In addition, many issues arise for families including internet connectivity, day care for students, availability of meals, and academic assistance with assignments. Plans will be communicated to families in advance of the utilization of E-Learning.

Our focus is always on our families and students. We will attempt to provide as much normalcy to our community as possible during this extremely difficult time. I hope that everyone is able to escape the fears for a brief period and that through some miracle we can return to our daily routines.