

West Mifflin School District  
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Press Release  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **WEST MIFFLIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNOUNCES REMOTE LEARNING**

West Mifflin, PA – The West Mifflin Area School District Board of Directors provided guidance to the Administration to begin the 2020/2021 Academic school year through remote learning. Citing concern for the safety of all students, community members and staff during this continued pandemic, the Board decided to follow the recommendations of Governor Tom Wolf and his team of health and safety advisors.

The District decided to take the administration's recommendation for remote learning in accordance to Governor Wolf's new plan. The plan is going to have our students participate in their classes remotely at least through the first 9-weeks of the school year. The District will re-evaluate the situation throughout the first nine weeks to monitor the effects of the pandemic.

The Wolf Administration has released safety guidelines for schools in high population counties in an effort to decrease risk of spreading the deadly virus, COVID-19. While the administration recognizes the importance of getting students back to school, it is relying on data that tracks the spread of the virus. A statement from The Pennsylvania Department of Health said it intends to provide an analysis studying the seven-day rate of transmission in each county in Pennsylvania and group those rates into three categories: low, moderate and substantial. The department's recommendation on how to reopen would be based on those categories.

The WMASD Administration also announced that they will be holding virtual Town Hall Meetings as the safety plan is being developed to allow parents to express their concerns over the school policy, to ask questions and to stay informed about the safety measures currently being implemented. The Administration will also be conducting a survey for parents of elementary school students to assess their technology needs during the remote learning period of the school year. Both the Town Hall meeting dates and Survey will be available on the district's website.

“We look forward to getting all of our students back into the classroom,” said Superintendent Jeffrey Soles, “however, our first concern has to be the safety and health of everyone in order to provide an educational setting that is conducive to learning. We are going to follow the Department of Health recommendations to monitor the incidence rate and percent positivity of the virus. We ask for patience during this difficult time.”

Classes will begin on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

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