

March 13, 2020

Please note, all extracurricular activities scheduled for this afternoon or tomorrow, Saturday, March 14 are continuing as normal. Students have been instructed to take their belongings with them today.

Dear WSCA Community,

Out of an abundance of caution, **West Shore Christian Academy is following other local school districts' decision to close beginning Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 27, 2020. We will plan to resume school on Monday, March 30, 2020.** It is important to note that, at this time, WSCA does **not** have any confirmed cases of COVID-19.

During this closure, we will be implementing a distant learning plan in an attempt to redeem instructional time so we can continue to fulfill state instructional hour requirements. As we communicated last night, next Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (March 16-19) will be vacation days for the students as faculty and staff report for in-service to begin implementing our distant learning plan. More information will be sent via email early next week to explain student, teacher, and parent expectations for schoolwork during the closure.

This March 16-March 27 closure affects **all** programming at the school, including before- and after- school activities, all athletic and extracurricular practices and competitions, and evening events. During the period of closure, the Lower and Upper Schools will be thoroughly cleaned to aid in minimizing the spread of the illness. Public school districts are also working with their contractors to thoroughly disinfect their buses.

As a result of this decision and Governor Wolf's "strong encouragement" that "all large gatherings, especially those of 250 or more, be either canceled or postponed," **WSCA will be postponing its musical production for at least 4 weeks.** It is still our intention to perform all four shows but we are still in conversations to determine the exact show dates and performance venue. Camp Hill School District plans to communicate with us early next week regarding the Pollock Center's availability and we will have further information for you as we know more. *At this time, because all tickets will be honored on the new show dates (TBD), we do not intend to offer refunds.*

We understand a decision regarding school closure will likely bring about many questions. As we navigate unprecedented waters, we appreciate your patience and understanding as you await further information and guidance from us over the coming days. We also know our students and

families may be feeling a great deal of disappointment about the cancelation or postponement of their activities. Please know, moving forward, we are committed to providing our students with the very best opportunities and experiences we can under the present circumstances.

As we move forward, the safety and well-being of our community's students, parents, and grandparents are our first priority. We will continue to stay in conversation with state and local officials as our entire region responds to new guidance and a call to take an active role in combating COVID-19.

It is times like these where our core value of community becomes most visible. By deciding to temporarily close school, we believe we are committing to respect and value our neighbors both inside and outside our school community. Thank you very much for your patience, understanding, and prayers.

In Christ,

Paul M. Beardmore, MS/HS Principal
Joseph C. Shirvinski, Elementary Principal