

**School Closure Update (Parents, Caregivers, & Students)**  
**April 27, 2020**

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Students,

I want to start by saying thank you for all that you are doing to make this challenging time the best it can be. I can't wait for the day when we are back to a normal school day, with everyone here. In the meantime, I again appreciate all that each of you are doing to make this the best it can be under the given circumstances. I know that eLearning and distance learning is a challenge for teachers, students and parents. While this is not an ideal way to finish out the school year, we are fortunate to have eLearning, along with a dedicated staff who are working hard to connect with our students, and provide continued learning. Western is also fortunate to have a dedicated and talented Technology Department, who are working extremely hard to support our teachers, students, and parents during this unprecedented time. Right now, we have three weeks of school left, nine days of eLearning, and we want to all get through this together. If you are experiencing challenges with your child obtaining the work, receiving the instruction, completing the work, or turning in the work, please let your child's teacher know, your child's principal know, our Technology Department know, or me know so we can help.

Planning for Wrapping Up this School Year

- We are planning for our teachers and other staff members to come in over the next few weeks in small groups to close up their rooms and work areas in order to prepare for summer cleaning, painting, and the LED light replacement. Also, we have told our teachers that if there is student work or items that are not in their desks, lockers, or on their lockers, that need to go back to the students from their classrooms, that we will provide bags so it can be labeled and stored in the classrooms until parents can pick it up.
- Student Personal Item Pick-up – We are looking at mid to late May for this to happen, but it could be in connection with the iPad and book returns, once we determine if we are collecting iPads this year. We haven't finalized these plans yet since this will involve much more coordination. The principals, Mr. DuBois, and I will be discussing the logistics to make this happen and will communicate this to the students/parents in the near future.
- Student intent to return forms – Mr. DuBois has sent this information out to parents and will continue to follow-up with those we haven't from. This is important information for us to have in order to plan class sections for next school year. If you haven't completed this information yet, please do so.
- Primary CogAT Testing for Kindergarten and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – We recently received word that the facility that scores our CogAT testing temporarily closed due to COVID – 19, prior to receiving our tests. The tests are currently being stored by UPS. Mrs. Stranahan, Mrs. Moree and Mr. Quillen are working on options for determining placement, which will include feedback and recommendations from the teachers and parents, NWEA and other relevant data, and formal rating scales. In addition, once the scores are received, additional placement decisions may be made at that time if any student with a qualifying CogAT score has been overlooked.
- Prom – The tentative date for Prom is now set for Thursday, July 30. This is dependent on local and state guidelines and restrictions regarding COVID-19.

- Graduation – We want to celebrate our seniors with graduation if at all possible. The tentative date for graduation is now Friday, July 24. This again is dependent on local and state guidelines and restrictions regarding COVID-19.
- Summer School – We are planning for online Summer School for the high school in June. If restrictions are lifted, we will plan for face-to-face Jump Start in July, possibly extending Jump Start from two weeks to three weeks.
- Food Deliveries – We will continue to deliver food as previously indicated through at least May 15. We will determine if we can go through the end of May in the near future.

Thanks again to everyone for everything you are doing to help each and every one of us get through this challenging time. Nine eLearning days remain, let's finish strong.

Sincerely,

Randy McCracken