



Delivering Extraordinary Value to Families

Steel Valley School District
District Administrative Offices

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Edward Wehrer
Superintendent

March 13, 2020

Dear Steel Valley Community,

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a focus of my attention for a number of weeks now. Because of the public health impact of the coronavirus, schools, businesses and organizations are reducing travel and large-group, face-to-face interactions. Today I attended a video conference call with state officials, including Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera. At this time, the state has decided to leave the decision-making on how best to deal with the pandemic to local school districts and communities.

Right now, I do not know of any cases of COVID-19 in our area, let alone in our schools. Nonetheless, after careful consideration and consultation with our Administrators and other district leaders, and after learning that the governors of Ohio, West Virginia and Maryland have closed their schools statewide, I have made the following decisions:

- Until further notice, all extracurricular activities, athletics and field trips are suspended.
- Monday and Tuesday (3/16 and 3/17) are going to be FID days #3 and #4. Students should complete those two packets from home on those two days.
- On those two days, our teachers will prepare twenty additional FID assignments.
- Wednesday (3/18) will be an early dismissal day. Students will come to school to get their additional FID assignments and any other materials that their teachers may provide. Students should bring their completed #3 and #4 packets with them.
- Beginning Thursday, March 19, through Wednesday, April 8, the Steel Valley School District will employ FID days. Students will be responsible for completing FID packets #5 – 19. Your child's teachers will provide their district email addresses for students and families that need assistance with the packets.
- Spring Break, which is scheduled from Thursday, April 9 – Monday, April 13, will remain days off from school.

- We anticipate that on Tuesday, April 14, school will resume. Students should bring their completed #5 – 19 packets with them.

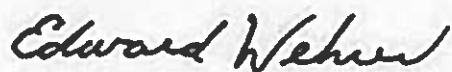
The district will be in touch with you next week and throughout this time via phone calls and our other communications channels, such as Facebook and our website. In order to better communicate with our families, we are sending home a form that asks about technology availability in your home and also asks for your most current contact information. Having your contact information is always important, but even more so now.

Throughout Allegheny County, many districts are planning to close until March 30, at which point they will re-evaluate whether or not longer school closures are needed. I do not believe that two weeks is sufficient, and with the Spring Break starting the following week on April 9, I believe that a four-week suspension of normal operations is warranted.

I encourage all of the families of our band students that have planned to go to Disney next month to purchase the travel insurance that is available. We have not made the decision to cancel the trip at this point, but purchasing the insurance may be wise.

I do not make these decisions lightly; the impact on our families and community is going to be significant. However, if these actions help reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in our community, then they will have been prudent, perhaps even life-saving, decisions.

Sincerely,



Edward Wehrer
Superintendent