

WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Gregory J. Cappello, Esq., Superintendent of Schools
Shawnequa Carvalho, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for HR & CAO
Margaret F. Meehan, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Thomas N. Tucci, Director of Technology & Special Projects
Kimberly Seifring, Ed.D., Director of Special Education & Related Services



675 Grove Road · West Deptford, New Jersey 08066-1999
Phone# (856) 848-4300 · Fax# (856) 845-5743
www.wdeptford.k12.nj.us

COVID-19 UPDATE - November 24, 2020

Dear West Deptford Families,

It has been a privilege to welcome West Deptford students into the buildings over the past several weeks. Although the West Deptford community has adapted and excelled within our current hybrid instructional model, we must be aware of the current transmission rate of COVID-19 and the challenges that the upcoming holidays will present.

Therefore, effective Monday, November 30, all PreK-12 students in West Deptford Schools will transition to Virtual Instruction. We have been made aware that the New Jersey Department of Health's weekly "COVID-19 Activity Level Report" raised the level from "moderate" to "high" over the past week in Gloucester County. The cases in our County have nearly doubled this week alone. After meeting with stakeholders throughout West Deptford and in consultation with the Gloucester County Department of Health, the decision was made to transition to a virtual learning model for educating our students. As we are confronted with positive cases of COVID-19 in our community/schools, and with the holidays approaching, we feel that this decision is the most strategic move to keep our staff and students safe.

What is meant by Virtual Instruction?

Virtual instruction means students will remain home during the regular school hours and complete assignments, tasks, and learning activities. We will offer both synchronous (live instruction via video conference) and asynchronous (pre-recorded videos, inquiry-based learning, student practice opportunities, reading, independent work, etc.) virtual instruction.

How long will students learn from home?

The initial period of virtual instruction will run from Monday, November 30, 2020 until Friday, January 15, 2021. This schedule is subject to change. We will continue to assess the situation in an effort to safely return to in-person instruction.

What happens next?

On Monday, November 30th, all students will transition to virtual instruction. Monday's plan for all students is as follows:

Students in Grades K - 12 should ensure that they have everything they need to participate in online virtual instruction experiences. This includes their Chromebook, a charger, and internet access. If you are unable to connect your device due to a lack of internet access, or if your child is experiencing technical difficulties with their device, please click [here](#) to submit a Technology support request form.

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Students in PreK will have a separate communication that will describe what the virtual learning experience will entail and procedures for instructional materials pickup.

Young Eagles Program (YEP) In order to prevent the continued spread of COVID-19 within our school community and to ensure that students will be able to return to in-person instruction as soon as possible, the West Deptford Young Eagles Program will also be closed during this time period. We recognize that this will be a hardship for families currently utilizing the program; however, at this time we feel that this is the safest course of action. Families will not be charged for any care missed due to this closing.

During Virtual Instruction, please contact your child's teacher via email if you have any questions pertaining to the instructional materials or activities.

Meal Distribution

All students will continue to be eligible to receive FREE breakfast/lunch through the end of this school year. Each student will receive 7 days' worth of meals at pick-up. See below for multiple locations and times where breakfasts and lunches can be picked up each Monday for the week (pick up on Tuesday in the event that Monday is a holiday). If there is an extenuating circumstance, please contact our Food Service Director, Alicia Keen (akeen@wdeptford.k12.nj.us) to arrange delivery.

- West Deptford Middle School: Mondays 9am-11am or 3pm-6pm
- West Deptford High School: Mondays 9am-11am or 3pm-6pm

Finally, on the main page of our District website we will keep you up-to-date with information on COVID-19, District plans, and all other information you may need during our closure. Please visit <https://www.wdeptford.k12.nj.us/> for more information.

While we understand this news impacts each family differently, our West Deptford staff members remain committed to working with you to ensure your child's success. If you have specific questions about your child, please contact your building principal. More information will be coming from the building principals with regard to details for your child's school.

Ultimately, this decision ensures the safety and well-being of our school community and your support is appreciated. Wishing you and your family a healthy and safe Thanksgiving and holiday season.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Cappello
Superintendent

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DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

West Deptford High School 856-848-6110, ext. 2203

Dr. Brian C. Gismondi, Principal - bgismondi@wdeptford.k12.nj.us
Mary Brewer, Administrative Assistant - mbrewer@wdeptford.k12.nj.us

West Deptford Middle School 856-848-1200, ext. 3235

Mrs. Christine Trampe, Principal - ctrampe@wdeptford.k12.nj.us
Jodi Thayres, Administrative Assistant - jthayres@wdeptford.k12.nj.us

Green-Fields Elementary 856-845-7929, ext. 6219

Mr. Robert Goldschmidt, Interim Principal - rgoldschmidt@wdeptford.k12.nj.us
Angelina Salvatore, Administrative Assistant - asalvatore@wdeptford.k12.nj.us

Oakview Elementary 856-845-1856, ext. 4216

Mrs. Laura Sandy, Principal - lsandy@wdeptford.k12.nj.us
Angela Wolf, Administrative Assistant - awolf@wdeptford.k12.nj.us

Red Bank Elementary 856-845-2727, ext. 5203

Ms. Jill Scheetz, Principal - jscheetz@wdeptford.k12.nj.us
Lisa Proffitt, Administrative Assistant - lproffitt@wdeptford.k12.nj.us

If you need assistance regarding Special Services, please contact: 856-848-4300, ext. 4208

Dr. Kimberly Seifring, Director of Special Education and Related Services kseifring@wdeptford.k12.nj.us
Louise Keller, Administrative Assistant - lkeller@wdeptford.k12.nj.us

If you need assistance with Technology, please contact:

[Technology Support Request Form](#)

If you need assistance with Meal Distribution, please contact: 856-384-2607

Mrs. Alicia Keen akeen@wdeptford.k12.nj.us

District Website <https://www.wdeptford.k12.nj.us/>