



WESTERN MONTGOMERY CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

77 Graterford Road, Limerick, PA 19468
Phone (610) 489-7272 Fax (610) 489-8778
www.westerncenter.org

Serving the Pottsgrove, Spring-Ford and Upper Perkiomen School Districts

Christopher E. Moritzen
Administrative Director
Western Montgomery CTC
610-489-7272
CMoritzen@westerncenter.org

March 13, 2020

Good evening WMCTC community:

First and foremost, thank you for your support yesterday. We had no prior knowledge that there would be a state mandated shutdown of all Montgomery County schools prior to the Governor's announcement. I would like to commend our leadership team, teachers, support staff, and students for reacting quickly and calmly to this news. I am especially thankful to our maintenance staff who stayed late last night to do one final cleaning/sanitizing before the mandated shutdown.

I realize that families have many questions right now, and I hope this message provides some answers as we go into the weekend.

Q: How will this closure affect the school calendar?

A: The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has stated that "no school district will be penalized if it fails to meet the 180 day or school hours requirements." Spring break remains a part of the calendar as is and will take place April 8, 2020 to April 13, 2020. We do not foresee a change in the end of the school year, though we will not be able to make a final determination until schools are open and we have greater clarity from the state.

Q: What about NOCTI and NIMS Testing, will these dates change?

A: We will be looking to maneuver the written testing window to accommodate the calendar soon. The Performance Test of the NOCTI is still scheduled for April 22, 2020. If there is a need to reschedule we will be sure to notify all families of any changes. Testing for NIMS will be adjusted accordingly.

Q: When will meetings be rescheduled?

A: All meetings of any type will be rescheduled once the WMCTC reopens.

Q: Should students continue schoolwork over the next two weeks?

A: Our Instructors have been developing meaningful enrichment activities that will be available on Monday. These activities are designed to reinforce skills and allow opportunities to continue practicing previously taught skills while at home.

Q: My child has medicine that is at school, what should we do?

A: Please contact your medical provider and/or insurance carrier for instructions on how to request a refill. In addition to the current two week and one day mandatory school closure, WMCTC is planning on extending the time frame for certain activities and restrictions beyond March 30th. Out of an abundance of caution, and in an effort to be proactive, we are going to extend the following restrictions in our school and on our campus until the end of Spring Break - ending on Tuesday April 14th, at the earliest.

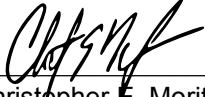
- All student field trips, regardless of location, are canceled.
- All scheduled guests for in-class presentations and student assemblies are canceled.
- All Enterprise Services including the Salon, Restaurant, Buckaroo Pre-School will all be suspended until April 14, 2020.
- All off-site professional development activities for staff, regardless of location, are canceled.
- All outside groups using WMCTC indoor facilities are canceled.

- All volunteer programs are suspended until further notice.

I realize that employees, students, and families will have many more questions over the next two weeks, and it is our goal to answer as many as possible as we work through this shutdown together. Our next communication will be on Monday, March 16th with additional information and links to the enrichment activities. I ask that if you do have a question, that you reply to WMCTCshutdown@westerncenter.org so that we can compile a list and respond accordingly.

I wish everyone the best over the weekend, and will be in contact again on Monday.

Thank you,
Mr. Christopher E. Moritzen



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Administrative Director
Western Montgomery CTC
610-489-7272
[Cmoritzen@westerncenter.org](mailto:cmoritzen@westerncenter.org)