

April 8, 2020

Dear Parents,

The amount of time, energy, and patience you've devoted to helping your children with emergency remote learning has been greatly appreciated. We know this has been extremely stressful. Our teachers and administrators have had to create an entirely new learning system and model in a matter of days, all while caring for their own families at home as you are doing. We are all stressed – but we are here to support each other.

Thank you for your grace, patience, and flexibility with changes and updates. A few important notes:

- Our goals for emergency remote learning are:
  1. Maintain connections with students and families
  2. Provide basic, minimal instruction
  3. Minimize stress

We know that every family's situation during this time is very different. Some parents are struggling to work while caring for young children and helping them with school. Others are facing tremendous stress as they are facing unemployment. Still others are faced with challenging child care choices as they are essential employees and must leave the house. A one-size-fits-all model will not be possible in this time. What we are providing is not a substitution for our normal program. We are simply trying to achieve our three goals through the closure.

- I am very happy to let you know that our system shows that in grades 3-12, nearly 98% of our students have logged into Schoology through April 7.
- We have created a technology help page for technical assistance with Zoom, Schoology, Google Drive, and Seesaw. [Please access the page here.](#)

If you need specific help, you can email:

[helpdesk@wcasd.net](mailto:helpdesk@wcasd.net) for district devices and hardware concerns

[one2one@wcasd.net](mailto:one2one@wcasd.net) for online learning support

[schoology@wcasd.net](mailto:schoology@wcasd.net) for Schoology specific support

- Schoology continues to have outages; We know this is a struggle. The company has told all of its school districts nationwide that it's working to upgrade its system. Obviously, Schoology wasn't created to handle this. [Our technology department has created this info sheet to show you how to check Schoology's status and view some tips to get back online.](#)
- Zoom has updated security to include passwords and prevent unwanted participants from entering a meeting. The password is embedded in the meeting link that teachers send out.

- At our middle and high schools, we are moving to a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading scale (Pass/Fail), like many districts and colleges around the country. [Information about that is here.](#)
- [Families who are looking for ways to help those in need at this time can read our volunteer information.](#)
- Finally, while our school grounds are normally open to our community, we have had to close them all during this pandemic as too many community members have been using them and not practicing social distancing. Police are now monitoring our campuses. We look forward to everyone using our facilities and grounds when the closures are over.

Thank you for your support for our staff during this time. I'm extremely proud of what they've done and continue to do to maintain critical connections with our students. Thanks for all you're doing to keep your children learning. For the next few days, I hope you'll be able to find a few moments to turn off the screens and enjoy the beautiful weather.

Stay healthy,  
Dr. Scanlon