



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
*WASHINGTON CENTER FOR  
DEAF and HARD of HEARING YOUTH*  
611 Grand Blvd., S-26 Vancouver, Washington 98661-4918 • (360) 696-6525  
Administration FAX (360) 696-6291 • Business Office FAX (360) 418-0418

May 26, 2020

Dear WSD Families,

As we near the end of May, I wanted to reach out and thank you for your patience, your understanding and your daily efforts to engage your child so they can continue their learning at home during the statewide closure of school facilities. I know that remote learning is difficult and has many shortcomings. It simply cannot compare to classroom-based learning. I am proud of our teachers, staff, families and students for working so hard to make the best of a challenging situation.

I realize that families are thinking ahead and wondering what the start of the 2020-21 school year will look like. We are involved with discussions happening at the state, regional and local school district level that include a range of possibilities and will follow state public health guidelines for the safety of our students, employees, and families. Along with all other state agencies, we have also been directed to make 15% budget reduction plans. These are very complicated times, and I will again ask for your patience as we sort through a variety of factors that will impact the start of our school year.

Our plans must be made in collaboration with our state and local school district leaders, and reflect the input we receive from staff and parents. Among the many details are transportation, social distancing protocols, classroom environments, residential services, personal protective equipment, meal services and cleaning and sanitizing procedures. We certainly don't have all of the answers, but we are examining a variety of options, some of which include a combination of alternating distance and in-person learning environments. We will share information as soon as we can.

Your responses to a tech survey on distance learning will guide us as we improve our remote learning lessons and expectations. We will refine our practices based on your comments and suggestions as we plan for next year. Teachers and staff will continue to receive training to help them understand how to better support their students. Please take a few minutes and take this short survey. Here is the link:

<https://forms.gle/5hu29Xxq4Ym9exVSA>

*Washington School for the Deaf (WSD) - "BEST"*  
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I am grateful to be working in a school, community and state that cares so deeply about our deaf children. I know you as parents share our desire to meet the academic and non-academic needs of all students, I am confident that we will overcome the challenges of the coming months and we will continue to be the B.E.S.T. choice to meet your child's academic needs

I will continue to provide updates about WSD as we learn more about the impacts on our school related to the pandemic and about our plans for summer and the 2020-2021 school year. Meanwhile, please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

*Shauna Bilyeu*

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