



Wyoming Valley West School District



Special Education Department
24 Wadham Street
Plymouth, PA 18651
Phone: 570-288-6551 Fax: 570-718-6523

August 14, 2020

Dear Families:

The Wyoming Valley West School District will implement a virtual platform for all general and special education students from September 8, 2020 to October 9, 2020. After extensive research and observations, and following the recommendation of the Department of Education, the district believes that this is the safest option for students, staff, and the community at this point. The district will reexamine reopening plans/options for students throughout the next several weeks, and during this time an interim plan will be delivered to provide students with new academic instruction, recoupment instruction, and progress monitoring to ensure the student is making meaningful progress.

Students receiving special education supports and related services virtually will receive services from the same teacher/related service provider who would work with the student if he/she were participating in in-person instruction. Delivery methodology may include but is not limited to distance/virtual learning (synchronous and asynchronous), tele-therapies, and work-packets.

Regarding the District's use of virtual learning and tele-therapy, please note the following privacy guidelines:

- Unauthorized recordings which include photos of instructional materials, photos, and/or videos posted to social media or online, are strictly prohibited by all parties including Wyoming Valley West School District.
- The parent/guardian shall make every effort to ensure that no one other than the student scheduled to participate can see or hear the live virtual session. Ear buds and/or head sets are suggested.
- A parent/guardian or other designated adult must be present and visible in an individual virtual session to enable a student to participate.
- When participating in a video session, please be mindful of the educational environment and eliminate distractions that may divert the students' attention away from learning.

As necessary, we will send timing and logistical information about accessing virtual special education and related services for your child separately. This education and these related services will be based on your child's needs as much as possible. Please review the District's Reopening

Plan, attached hereto, for additional information regarding the plan for your child during the first month of school.

We recognize that some students may not be able to participate fully in these virtual programs and services, or will gain only limited benefit from them. Once the school district reopens to either a hybrid or a full in-district mode, we will resume your child's educational program and placement as described in his or her IEP, and we will discuss at IEP team meetings whether your child might require additional programming or services to address any learning problems that might have resulted from the period of school closure. Procedural safeguards for this mode of education may be found on the district's website. Parents/guardians, please keep in touch with the IEP team through your child's case manager if you have any questions/concerns moving forward.

We are proud of our professional support personnel. We are confident that they will all work together with you to maximize your child's educational experiences during this pandemic.

Respectfully,

Marya Baratta and Barry Rogers

Directors of Special Education