

Dear WCA Community,

I am very sorry to say, we have been studying the situation, and I have had good input from our community, including medical professionals that are part of the school. We have received strong input to limit contact for adults, especially older adults, in the current situation.

Based on that input, we are 1) moving the Auction to online-only, and 2) not having Grandparents' Day activities.

There is a Pre-Auction website that is open now (<https://www.32auctions.com/WCA2020>), and we'll be adding the rest of the items and announcing the opening of the full Auction. It will be open for a week or so, and can be widely circulated. When we have the formal open, we'll need everybody's help to send the online auction to as many folks as possible - we really need this to be widely distributed.

On March 27th we will not have Grandparents' Day activities, though it will still be a half-day and we'll still have the High School Play. Grandparents are welcome to pick their students up and go to lunch, we just won't have events for them - it feels too risky in the current situation.

If I may, I'd like to share my general thinking, just with the understanding that this is preliminary and may need to be adjusted as we go along:

- School will remain open until the Maryland Dept of Health gives us instructions otherwise.
 1. In general, children get the virus less and have less severe cases, so we trust and pray they will be the least affected.
 2. For WCA, the exception would be if we have a lot of staff that are ill, or when we have 15% or so of the students out - at that point you think about closing your school for a few days even if there's not a general closure.
 3. We would continue to have online learning assignments, etc.
- Activities - things that are mostly students, for students, with fewer adults, or less contact with adults and students, should go on.
 1. Here I'm including athletics, the Hershey trip, the school play, awards assembly, graduation, etc.
 2. We'll make decisions on a case-by-case basis, but we'd like to have these events.
 3. Some of these occur after it begins to warm up, and we'll see if there is a seasonal component to the coronavirus, as some experts have suggested is possible.

Right now, the auction and Grandparents day involve a lot of adults, including a goodly number of senior adults, so for now we are canceling those. We'll give more information as we move forward - let's keep all of those affected in our prayers.

Let me know any thoughts - thanks so much!



W. James Armistead
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