



## Mercer County Public Schools

DEBORAH S. AKERS, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

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Dear Students, Parents, and Employees:

All Mercer County Schools have now been closed for seven days due to concerns about the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid-19). Historically, providing instruction in academics was the central theme for public schools in America. The closure of schools has impacted students, parents, and employees, but the basic need to provide adequate food for students during this time is a priority. In Mercer County, we have been fortunate that many of our employees (cooks, teachers, custodians, aides, secretaries, and others) have volunteered to prepare and pack food for students. Our bus drivers have been making deliveries to students with assistance from aides and other volunteers every day. The schedule for delivery of food, however, will now change, with students receiving multi-day meal packages. I would like to say **"Thank You"** to every employee and to all others who have volunteered and assisted to feed students.

We receive information from the governor and other state officials daily and have been adjusting, shifting priorities, and making changes as new information and directions are received. I know that you have questions about schedules, spring break, grades, credits, graduation, and many other educational issues. While other states have canceled the remainder of the school year, West Virginia has not made that decision at this time; however, information and answers to questions will be shared as it is received.

Although teachers may not be taking grades, it is our hope that students will use materials and assignments provided by teachers and continue to use available educational technology and programs in their efforts to prepare for the future. Future leaders may be students who continue to study, read, and problem solve.

Like you, we look forward to the time when things return to normal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deborah S. Akers".

Deborah S. Akers, Ed. D.  
Superintendent, Mercer County Public Schools