
Westport Public Schools Summer Programs

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June 2, 2020

Dear Westport Families,

In an effort to support summer programs, during the past few weeks we have carefully considered the most recent information disseminated by federal, state, and local authorities. Toward that objective, in addition to speaking with Westport Public Schools (WPS) staff members, we have consulted with Christine Jewell, District Director of Continuing Education, Jennifer Fava, Town Director of Parks and Recreation, and Mark Cooper, Director of the Westport Weston Health District. We have also carefully considered the detailed regulations established for summer camps and summer school programs sent through the Governor's Executive Orders, the State Office of Early Childhood, the State Department of Education and the State Department of Public Health.

Given the potential health risks to students and staff and complex state regulations, which would significantly alter programming even if they could be adhered to, we have come to the conclusion that it would be untenable for the WPS to offer in-person summer programs. This change will impact Continuing Education Programs and Camps and our Extended School Year (ESY) Special Education Services.

We are very disappointed to be in this position and understand how disappointed some parents and students might be as well. However, we are committed to doing our best to offer excellent alternative programming through a distance learning format.

With that objective in mind, Continuing Education will be providing a great number of programs online, including all of the high school courses being offered for credit. Please consult the Continuing Education website at westportcontinuinged.com for up-to-date information regarding our many program offerings.

Parents of students who are participating in ESY will be receiving specific information related to their children's Individualized Education Programs (IEP) designated services through the Special Education Department. Although it will not be possible in every instance, we are working toward having special education teachers and service providers continue to teach their students who are receiving ESY services.

During the next few weeks we will be doing everything we can to design and strengthen our summer programs. If you do have questions regarding ESY, please contact your child's Assistant Principal for Special Education. Stepping Stones ESY questions may be sent to Lynda Codeghini, Pre-School Director.

Given current circumstances, we look forward to providing the best possible summer programs, as we look forward to the day when we are able to "be with our students" through in-person teaching and learning.

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

David Abbey
Interim Superintendent of Schools

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