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Michelle Dutrow, Superintendent

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Good Afternoon WB Families:

Well we have 7 days in for the 2020-2021 school year. We will need to be happy with celebrating small achievements this year and this milestone is our first goal met. As we move into next week, there are several updates to share with you today. As always, our plans continue to be fluid and are subject to change based on new mandates, local COVID-19 data and/or district needs.

Food Service

We are very excited to share with you that the USDA has expanded the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) program. This is the program that West Branch accessed March through June to provide free meals to interested students. With this week's announcement of the program extension, West Branch is eligible to re-access this program immediately. What does this mean for our families? **Effective Tuesday, September 8, 2020 all WB students can have a free breakfast and lunch each day as long as the program remains open.** This offer applies to all WB in-house and cyber students as well as any children in the community ages 2-18. The extension is currently set to expire on December 31, 2020 or when funds are exhausted. Regardless, your children can eat free until that time. For those folks with children at home, you will be able to receive your free meals via our drive-thru each Tuesday and Friday. If you have children at home and would like to receive the free meals via the drive-thru, please contact our Cafeteria Office @ (814) 345- 5616, ext. 1030.

School Athletics

This week, Governor Wolf revised the guidance pertaining to spectators at school sporting events to align with the Order pertaining to Mass Gatherings. As such, we are now governed by a 250 limit (outside events) and 25 limit (inside events). I would remind you that this does include the student participants, coaches, officials, media, event staff and spectators. Given that the number of 250 and 25 are inclusive of every individual, this does present relief for some sports but not for others. There is additionally a House Bill moving through the two chambers which would provide some additional spectator relief.

As we move through the next week or so and await final guidance from Harrisburg, we will be handling our events a week at a time. Following is next week's schedule:

September 5, 2020	JV/V Football Scrimmage (Curwensville)	2 Tickets per Player
September 5, 2020	JV/V Volleyball Scrimmage (Home)	No Spectators
September 8, 2020	JH Girls Soccer Scrimmage (Penns Valley)	Spectators Permitted
September 9, 2020	V Girls Soccer Scrimmage (Bald Eagle)	No Spectators
September 9, 2020	JH Football Scrimmage (Philipsburg)	TBD
September 10, 2020	JV/V Girls Volleyball Scrimmage (Home)	No Spectators
September 11, 2020	V Football Game (Juniata Valley)	No Spectators

It is the policy of the West Branch Area School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin or handicap/disability in its educational programs, activities, or employment. Services and facilities are accessible to and usable by disabled persons as required by Title IX, Section 504 and Title VI.

September 12, 2020

JH/V Girls Soccer Game (Philipsburg)

TBD

For the following week, you will find this information a day ahead of each event on the WB Facebook page and West Branch website. You may also contact the Athletic Office to inquire at (814) 345-5616, ext. 1006. The District will provide information about Live Streaming once the system is installed.

As a reminder, masks and social distancing will be required at any event that permits spectators. Failure to comply will result in your removal from the game and a possible forfeiture for our team and PIAA sanctions against the District. Please follow the rules so our athletes have this opportunity.

WB Cyber Program

For those families with children at home via the WB COVID-19 cyber model, we thank you for your patience as we navigate this large and somewhat new instructional model. As new students have been assigned to the WB Cyber enrollment list, we have been working to refine our process, identify other staff members to assist, and getting students enrolled for their online courses via our vendor CIOLA. Next week, the ELA online course will be activated, and students will be working on math and ELA assignments. Any parent wishing additional courses to be turned on next week should contact your WB Advisor – Sue Folmar (Grades 2-6) or Carrie Peterson (Grades 7-12).

Enjoy your Labor Day weekend!

Micki Dutrow