



**WILLIAM J. GRETZULA, Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent*

## **PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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October 2, 2020

Dear Pennsbury School District Community,

As you may be aware, our varsity football program plays against Central Bucks East High School this evening in our stadium. This is the only home game for our student-athletes in the program and we are excited they have the opportunity to compete this evening; however, there has been a change in the spectator allowance for this evening's event and I'd like to provide background information regarding the decision.

On September 17, 2020, The Board of School Directors approved an Athletic Health and Safety Plan that states:

- Parents/guardians and other spectators are restricted from attending all practice and contests as of 9/17/2020.
- If the indoor/outdoor gathering restrictions are lifted or modified by the Governor, the District will allow spectators at competitions in compliance with the revised directives with appropriate social distancing / face-coverings in place.

Administration was informed a week later that there was majority Board support for allowing spectators at events and directed administration to take the appropriate actions. That led to planning for increased attendance at tonight's event; however, yesterday afternoon, we received information that Pennsylvania's Third United States Circuit of Appeals "issued a stay on the recent lower federal court ruling that found the Wolf Administration's order limiting public gatherings to 25 people inside and 250 people outside was unconstitutional. After U.S. District Judge William Stickman IV issued that ruling, Gov. Wolf appealed the decision and asked the judge for a stay pending appeal. Judge Stickman denied that request. Gov. Wolf then appealed for a stay from the Third U.S. Circuit Court, which granted it [Thursday]."

### **MISSION**

*Recognizing our proud traditions and diverse community, the Pennsbury School District prepares all students to become creative, ethical, and critical thinkers for lifelong success in a global society.*

In essence, the stay order reinstates the Governor's public gathering restrictions until the appeal is heard. Therefore, it was advised by the District solicitor's office that administration should communicate immediately that school activities such as athletic events and extra-curricular programs that have public audiences are **limited to 25 people inside and 250 people outside**. This includes all student participants and staff.

It was rumored yesterday that Governor Wolf was considering modifying crowd limitations for this weekend, but that is no longer the case. See more information in this [article](#). Like so many decisions we have been forced to make throughout the pandemic, this news will surely evoke strong negative emotions. I recognize it and accept it, but please know that we are trying to make defensible decisions amongst continually changing guidance, recommendations, mandates and legal rulings. Health and safety remain our top priority.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Gretzula". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and "G".

William J. Gretzula, Ed. D.  
District Superintendent  
Pennsbury School District