

# Back to School



June 24, 2020

## Our weekly “Back to School E-newsletter” for families!



### ***“Back to School” website now online***

Our “Back to School” website is now available at [www.wcsoh.org/backtoschool](http://www.wcsoh.org/backtoschool). You can also access the site via “Back to School” buttons on the district home page and all school websites. Under normal circumstances, this site would be opened in July and our packet of back to school announcements would soon follow. We realize families would prefer to have information about next year as soon as possible, so we’ve reworked our internal processes to bring some of this information to you much sooner. Here are some important things to know:

- Instead of a “static” packet of news and announcements, we’ve transitioned that content into “live” online documents that you can access.
- There’s still a lot of uncertainty and the information we have to share may change, particularly with new information and guidance from health officials or the state and federal governments.
- If there are changes to information, or when new information is added, we will do our best to call it to your attention through that site and in this e-newsletter.



### ***Academics***

As things progress and we prepare for various scenarios, you’re likely going to hear two terms repeatedly: “Remote Learning” and “Blended Learning.” So, what’s the difference?



**Remote Learning** is when students are at home 100% of the time, just like we ended the prior school year. Under a Remote Learning environment, students would participate in live or pre-recorded whole or small group lessons presented by teachers; work on various activities supported by district-purchased online digital products; and complete other assignments from the teacher that provide

independent practice, skill reinforcement, and/or extension opportunities. Truly, nobody expected to be shut down as long as we were, but we learned a lot in that time. Most importantly, we learned that we needed to strengthen our Remote Learning plan, just in case we found ourselves operating under that scenario again. Our teams have been working to strengthen our Remote Learning plan, which also supports a Blended Learning approach.



**Blended Learning** is when students participate in a mix of in-person instruction at school and Remote Learning at home. Students would attend school on assigned days in reduced class sizes to help comply with health requirements. They would receive direct instruction from their teacher on those days that they're in school, and on the other days they would complete Remote Learning activities as described in the previous paragraph.

As a school district, we have to be prepared for anything, especially those things that can happen that are beyond our control. If we are successful in strengthening our Remote Learning plans for students and incorporate those strategies as part of a Blended Learning approach, we're confident that we can give our students and families a quality school experience under any circumstance.



## Operations



### Transportation

The state recently announced that it would be providing additional guidance to schools for the 2020-21 academic year. While we do not yet have any specifics, there is speculation that this next announcement will include the latest guidance on student transportation services. Our district's Department of Transportation continues to run through various scenarios based on social distancing constraints. Each scenario has a different impact on costs, service levels and schedules. Once the state provides this latest guidance, should it address transportation matters such as appropriate bus capacity and health requirements for students who ride a bus, we will be able to finalize a strategy and share additional details with families.



### Extracurricular Activities

Phase one of our plan to reopen extracurricular activities for secondary students occurred a few weeks ago, allowing high school teams to use our outside facilities (mostly in the stadiums) for skill work and conditioning. This past Monday, we moved into the second phase of this plan, which allowed middle school programs to begin doing skill and conditioning at their outdoor facilities, and high school programs can begin to utilize the weight rooms and gymnasium facilities. Per a recent state announcement, non-contact sports are able to compete with each other during practice. When such announcements occur, we rely upon guidance from the state and Ohio High School Athletic Association as we begin allowing these activities. We continue to have all of our local plans reviewed and approved by the Franklin and Delaware County Boards of Health.



### Other

The Board of Education held another work session focusing on the 2020-21 school year this past Monday evening. The video of the [work session](#) is available to view on the Board's YouTube channel for anyone interested in hearing this conversation and learning more about some of the Back-to-School matters under consideration by Board members and the planning teams to which they are serving as liaisons.

Westerville City School District would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact Westerville City School District directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm: [Unsubscribe](#)

SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.

Parents/Guardians: The District is sometimes able to provide free language assistance in other languages. If you need such assistance, please contact the building secretary or building administrator at your child's school and let them know the language you speak.

Spanish: Padres / Guardianes: A veces el Distrito puede proporcionar asistencia gratis en otros idiomas. Si necesita esta ayuda, comuníquese con la secretaria del edificio o con el administrador del edificio en la escuela de su hijo y hágalos saber el idioma que usted habla.

Somali: Waalidiinta/Mas'uuliyiinta: Degmada Waxbarashadu waxay mararka qaarkood idinka caawin kartaa luqooyinka kale. Haddii aad u baahan tahay caawintaas, fadlan la xariir xoghaynta ama qofka maamula iskuulka ilmahaagu dhigto una sheeg luqadda aad ku hadashid.