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## WCSD: Back to School E-newsletter 07-22-2020

1 message

WCSOH, WCS <wcs@westerville.k12.oh.us>  
Reply-To: wcs@westerville.k12.oh.us  
To: All Staff <allstaff@westerville.k12.oh.us>

Thu, Jul 23, 2020 at 8:16 AM



July 22, 2020

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



### **Important Information**



One of the more critical tasks ahead of school officials is planning transportation routes for the coming school year. **Everyone who was eligible for district transportation services remains eligible this year.** However, it would be very helpful to know which families have decided to personally transport their children to and from school next year.

We will soon be asking families who are eligible for district transportation services to indicate if they still need these services during the 2020-21, or if they intend to personally transport their children to and from school during the coming academic year. **Please keep an eye out and respond as soon as possible if you receive a request for this information.** Once the school year is underway and circumstances change, a family can opt back in and transportation will be arranged.

Even with reduced numbers of students on our buses, some extended services that we typically offer (such as transporting students to alternate sites like daycares) will not be available at the start of the school year. However, as those services are able to be restored, we will begin to provide them again. Transportation officials are working to make next year's bus schedules available on or before Monday, August 17, 2020.



### **Academics**



**FIRST DAY OF INSTRUCTION DELAYED**

The first day that students will begin attending classes and receiving instruction according to an alternating “A Week/B Week” schedule is Monday, August 24. However, all students will be required to participate in Remote Learning Days on August 20 and August 21. For those two days, students will receive important details about the upcoming school year, what to expect during blended learning, and how to get support when needed. There will not be a gentle start for preschool or kindergarten students this year, and there will not be a “sixth-grade only day” for the first day of instruction at the middle school level.

Under the alternating “A Week/B Week” schedule, half of our students will begin attending school in person on Monday, August 24, while the other half is on remote instruction for the week. Students will continue to follow the alternating “A Week/B Week” schedule moving forward. Families will soon be notified if they are on the A or B schedule and will be able to contact their school principal to request a change.



## WESTERVILLE VIRTUAL ACADEMY

Information about the Westerville Virtual Academy (WVA) instructional option was emailed Tuesday, July 21, to all families that have an email registered in PowerSchool. Information is also available online at [www.wcsoh.org/WVA](http://www.wcsoh.org/WVA). Families will receive additional program information and an online registration link by e-mail on Thursday, July 23. Families will also receive these registration materials by U.S. mail. The WVA registration period is July 23 through July 29. Originally, the district planned to make enrollment in WVA a commitment for the entire school year. However, families will now be asked to commit to the program through at least the first semester and at that time may choose to continue through the remainder of the year. Questions about the program should be directed to [wva@wcsoh.org](mailto:wva@wcsoh.org).



### INSTRUCTIONAL TIMES; PRESCHOOL ADDED

In the first release of our Responsible Restart information on July 17, we shared updated instructional times for the 2020-21 school year. We did not yet have Preschool times confirmed. Below is the list of times shared with preschool added. Once again, instructional times are being adjusted to the following so buses can be cleaned and sanitized between routes:

- High Schools: 7:25 a.m. to 1:25 p.m.
- Middle Schools: 8:15 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.
- Elementary Schools/All-Day Kindergarten: 9:35 a.m. to 3:20 p.m.
- Morning Kindergarten: 9:35 a.m. to Noon
- Afternoon Kindergarten: 12:55 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.
- Morning Preschool: 8:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
- Afternoon Preschool: 12:55 p.m. to 3:25 p.m.



### PRESCHOOL OPERATIONS

In order for the district's special needs preschool program to reopen, we must follow current preschool licensing rules and regulations as established by the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services, as well as the guidance from local and state agencies. This requires us to follow the pandemic preschool/childcare center ratio requirement of 1 adult to 9 preschool-aged students. As long as this restriction is in place, only students identified on an IEP will attend The Early Learning Center; we will not be able to permit preschoolers without disabilities to enroll as peers. The program plans to open to students with disabilities attending four, half-days per week during their assigned times.



### RUMOR CONTROL

Have you heard this one? “Our classrooms will look like prisons and teachers will not allow interaction between kids, even with their masks on.” Will things look and feel different? Yes. Is it accurate to compare the coming school year to a prison experience? No. First, we would ask families to have confidence in our teachers and their ability to provide students with a meaningful, valuable, educational experience under these unusual conditions. With fewer students attending at any given time, student seating will be spaced apart to meet social distancing standards. Kids will be wearing masks, and “mask breaks” will be built into their schedule. In some instances, when social distancing standards cannot be met, there may be some other form of dividers in place. Students will be able to interact with their teacher and classmates, but this interaction will definitely look different from children sitting right next to each other or in close proximity to complete group work. Teachers will not be following a “one size fits all” approach to how they operate their classroom when students are there for instruction. Just as they do every year, they will, however, get to know their students, determine how best to meet their instructional and social needs, and work within established health and safety guidelines to meet those needs.



## Operations



### UPDATE: FOOD SERVICES

We received written confirmation July 20 from the Ohio Department of Education that we will be able to offer food service to students during their remote instruction schedule, as well as to students in the Westerville Virtual Academy. Originally, we did not believe this was going to be the case and that is what was communicated in our initial release of information. Logistics of how meals will be made available will be communicated to families once finalized. Any family that wishes to have access to food on remote/virtual days will need to opt into this program. The District would like to take this opportunity to remind families that the application process is open now for families who believe they qualify for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. However, the process for opting into the remote meal program is currently being designed and will be available for families soon.



### GENERAL HEALTH/SAFETY MEASURES

- Classrooms have been evaluated to determine capacities based upon a blended learning model. Most spaces will support the reduced capacities without physical changes beyond seating arrangements. Custodial staff are following seating charts and rearranging rooms to allow for social distancing, but if additional modifications are required, transparent partitions are being installed as needed.
- Building HVAC systems have been modified to increase fresh air in all spaces and can be modified remotely as needed. Filters are already replaced on a recommended schedule and we will continue to follow that schedule diligently.
- We are installing more than 400 hand sanitizing stations across the district. Each learning space and office location will also be provided with hand sanitizer, and hand sanitizing stations have been added to each bus. Many elementary school classrooms have hand washing stations in the room or immediately outside the door.
- Each learning space and office space will also have a sanitizing solution, gloves, and towels in the event these items are needed.
- Staff and students will be provided with reusable 3-ply cloth masks. Additional disposable and reusable supplies will be on hand for as-needed use. For example, disposable masks will be available on buses to provide for students in the event someone needs one.
- The district is supplying face shields as needed and will have a supply in stock to start the school year.
- Other specialized Personal Protective Equipment is being provided as needed.
- High touch point locations and other common spaces will be cleaned and sanitized frequently. Cafe tables will be cleaned and sanitized between lunch lines.

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## Other



### IMPORTANT DATES

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|--------------|---|
| August 20-21 | “Remote Learning Days” -- All Students  |
| August 24    | All students begin attending classes and receiving instruction according to their “A Week/B Week” schedule. Half of the students will attend school in person, while the other half receives remote instruction for the week. Students will continue following the alternating “A Week/B Week” schedule moving forward. |
| September 1  | Instruction begins for students in Westerville Virtual Academy  |



## IMPORTANT LINKS

- Back to School Information: [www.wcsoh.org/backtoschool](http://www.wcsoh.org/backtoschool)
- Westerville Virtual Academy Information: [www.wcsoh.org/wva](http://www.wcsoh.org/wva)
- WCSD Responsible ReSTART: [www.wcsoh.org/restart](http://www.wcsoh.org/restart)
- Board Meeting Videos: [www.youtube.com/WCSDOHIO](http://www.youtube.com/WCSDOHIO)



## REMINDER

The Westerville Area Kids Lunch Clubs is a free program that provides children 1-18 with nutritious meals and coordinated enrichment activities throughout the summer when school is not in session. The Kids Lunch Club will continue to serve outdoors, rain or shine, on weekdays through August 7. Additional details and locations are available by [clicking here](#). Please direct any questions about this program to Sarah Huffman at the Westerville Area Resource Ministry ([sarah@warmwesterville.org](mailto:sarah@warmwesterville.org); 614-899-0196 x218).

Westerville City School District  
936 Eastwind Drive, Westerville, OH 43081  
[www.wcsoh.org](http://www.wcsoh.org) | [www.wcsoh.org/BACKtoSCHOOL](http://www.wcsoh.org/BACKtoSCHOOL)

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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 hágales 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.