



August 5, 2020

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



### ***Important Information***



#### **Save the Date: Technology Pickup & Other Instructional Resources**

August 17, 18 & 19 are the anticipated dates for Chromebook pickup (including Westerville Virtual Academy students) and materials pickup at your school. Our effort to distribute devices is intended to support those students who do not have appropriate access to technology at home to support their learning. We continue to ask that you give careful consideration to whether you actually “need” a device, or if having an additional device is more of a convenience. Given the limited number of devices available, we will be making technology available according to information collected from Westerville Virtual Academy participants, as well as through the technology-related questions included on this year’s forms in PowerSchool. Devices will be prepared according to forms completed and data collected by August 13, so please fill out these forms as soon as possible. Additional details regarding your school’s established pick-up procedures will be provided soon.



### ***Academics***



#### **Additional support for students and families**

One of the ways WCSD is going to support students this year, which was not in place last spring, is by hiring Success Coach positions and Guest Teacher positions. The interview process for these two extremely important roles has already begun. Guest Teachers agree to accept daily work assignments, online or in-person, wherever coverage is needed in any of our Westerville City Schools. Success Coaches, however, support students when they are in remote learning and not attending classes in the

traditional school setting. They will monitor students' attendance and engagement during online learning and serve as a contact point for students and their families for other support, including basic technical issues. Success Coaches will work closely with educators and school administration to support the delivery of educational intervention and support to targeted student populations. District officials plan to select these individuals soon so they can participate in professional learning opportunities with teachers and other staff prior to the start of the school year.



### 2020-21 Calendar

Though the district recently announced that it will open the 2020-21 School Year under a Remote Learning model, key dates available on the [Academic Calendar](#) remain the same. The downloadable "A Week/B Week" calendar on that same web page provides a look at the schedule that would be followed when health conditions improve and Blended Learning begins.



## Operations



### Meal Service

Last spring, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) granted waivers to school systems to extend the Seamless Summer Option as a way to allow us to serve kids meals. Through this program, district officials were able to identify areas of the community in which at least 50% of families were considered economically disadvantaged and allowed to deliver food for anyone 18 years of age or younger. There was no cost for families. Unfortunately, the USDA has not been able to fund that program for the upcoming school year. This means schools will be providing breakfasts and lunches according to the traditional National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Families will be charged for their meals at each student's benefits level through the food service department. The cost will be the same as if the student were in person in the school, and any student learning remotely will be able to opt into the program and pick up food weekly. Information about the district's lunch program and prices is available [HERE](#), and information about applying for free or reduced-price meals is available [HERE](#). Additional information regarding how to opt in for breakfast and lunch, as well as the process to pick up your meals, will soon be shared with families.

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## Other



### Website redesign

Westerville City Schools will soon launch a redesigned website. The new design, which was done in-house, used various data to identify and make the most popular content more prominent on district, program, and school pages. While the look and navigation of the site has been enhanced, there will still be a great degree of familiarity for the user. Some of the new features include:

- Floating navigation controls;
- Secondary content areas to expand and highlight important information;
- Automatic site adaptation to any device being used to view it;
- Tools allowing visitors to customize their experience based upon any visual enhancements they need, such as larger type, different colors, greater spacing, etc.;
- Automatic language translation based upon the user's settings (a new Google requirement since they are no longer supporting the translation bar).

The redesigned site is expected to go live the evening of Friday, August 14.

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 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.