

July 10th, 2020

**Washington Court House City Schools
2020-2021 School Plan**

I hope that this letter finds you healthy and doing well. I know these last several months (since March 13th) have been very challenging for all of you. Whether you are a student, teacher, staff member, or parent, everyone has been affected by the pandemic as well as other events that are taking place in our country and world. We appreciate your resiliency during these difficult times.

I ask you to take the time to read this communication carefully. This letter is to serve as the beginning of what promises to be a lot of communication. Please note that as a district, we will not be able to mail out each and every update as more details become available, however, I urge you to follow us on social media so that you can get the information in a timely manner on Twitter - @WCHCS, Facebook - @WCHCS, or our website at WCHCS.ORG. Also, we will send email communication to valid parent email addresses that we have through OneView.

Please know two things about this plan.

1. This plan can change at any time.
2. This is the basic overview. Specific details for every item is not included at this time.

These guidelines have been developed based upon feedback from our student and parent survey, staff feedback, as well as ODE and ODH guidelines.

The American Academy of Pediatrics states, “the AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school. The importance of in-person learning is well-documented, and there is already evidence of the negative impacts on children because of school closures in the spring of 2020. Lengthy time away from school and associated interruption of supportive services often results in social isolation, making it difficult for schools to identify and address important learning deficits as well as child and adolescent physical or sexual abuse, substance use, depression, and suicidal ideation. This, in turn, places children and adolescents at considerable risk of morbidity and, in some cases, mortality. Beyond the educational impact and social impact of school closures, there has been substantial impact on food security and physical activity for children and families.”

Washington Court House City Schools will be in full session starting this August. This means that school will be full day, every day. We are excited to get the students back into the buildings to continue to engage, inspire, and grow!

There is a NEW start date for students - August 24th!

In addition, as part of the change of the start date, we are requiring students to come into school at a time to be determined during the two weeks prior to the start of school for two reasons:

1. At that same time as the assessment, we will have an individual re-entry meeting for each parent/guardian. We want to hear from you how your child is doing since the shutdown on March 13. You will meet with a small group of staff members to discuss your child's



progress in academics last spring, how the Emergency Remote Learning went, and also to check on your child's social-emotional and mental health.

2. We will do an assessment with all students to gauge where they are educationally. The assessment will be MAP for the majority of students. Additionally, primary students will receive the same assessments that they would normally take for reading fluency, comprehension, and math skills. All students will be required to attend one or two sessions, depending on a student's grade level.

WCHCS takes very seriously the welfare of every child and to that end, we want to listen to every parent about your concerns and needs for your child. We are confident that each and every parent and guardian will take the opportunity to speak to a team about this important matter!

Busing - We are still waiting to hear about more specific guidance from the state on busing, however we do know that busing will occur. In order to keep social distancing on busing and avoid having to run additional routes we are asking all parents with the ability to transport their child to please do so each day. In addition, if a student is within walking distance of their school, we ask you to consider having them walk. Transportation is one aspect that will be fluid through the first few weeks of school. If we cannot adhere to health guidelines, we will have to adjust our procedures, which will cause delays in student transportation both in the morning and afternoon.

Health Clinic - Each building will create a separate area for students who may exhibit symptoms of COVID-19. This will separate students with other health needs from possibly being exposed. Any student with a temperature of 100.0 or higher will be sent home. Emergency contacts must be updated by parents and sick students must be picked up immediately. If the district finds out that a student/staff member tests positive for COVID-19, we will follow the protocols and guidelines set by the Fayette County Health Department.

Cafeteria - Students will not eat in the cafeteria, rather they will eat in a classroom. Those who choose to eat a school lunch will be served a sack lunch in the classroom. We are continuing to finalize several processes regarding food service, which will determine how we will handle the specific details, including the handling of money.

Classrooms - Students attending Cherry Hill and Belle Aire will be assigned a classroom for all core instruction. Students who have multiple teachers will NOT move, rather the teachers will move rooms. This allows for more instruction time since classrooms will not have to be disinfected between classes. While most of Washington Middle School and all of Washington High School students will have to change classrooms throughout the day, classroom set-ups, hallway procedures, and other safeguards will be implemented in order to provide the safest environment possible.

Disinfecting and Sanitation – Our team is working with our maintenance department on thorough cleaning protocols for all areas of our buildings and buses, especially areas with high student usage, for maximum safety and health of our students and staff.



Masks - As ordered by the State of Ohio, all WCHCS employees will be required to wear masks inside, except those individuals who are alone in a private office. Also, adults outside who are within 6 feet of others will be required to be masked. All students are highly encouraged to wear masks in school buildings. *Please note, masks may become a requirement on buses, however specific transportation guidelines from the state are still pending.

Visitors - In the interest of student and staff safety, all district campuses are closed to non-essential visitors. Visitors on school grounds are required to wear a mask and follow social distancing guidelines. Parents/Guardians picking up a student may call the office upon arrival and receive assistance in order for you to have a contactless visit. Visitors will only be permitted into school buildings for authorized events and predetermined meetings arranged with school personnel.

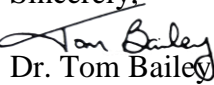
Handwashing - Students should wash their hands prior to leaving home. They will be asked to hand wash and use hand sanitizer throughout the day to prevent the spread of germs.

Temperature Checks - Parents are asked to take your child's temperature prior to school each and every day. Students will have their temperature taken again prior to entry to school. Students who have a temperature of 100.0 must be picked up immediately.

Please know that our task force of administrators and teachers is working diligently on all protocols for this restart. Our team is working with our local health department and adhering to all state guidelines, however, our main concern is getting our students back to school in a safe manner. As I stated at the beginning of this letter, you will need to remain vigilant in checking our avenues of communication to continue to receive the most recent updates.

If you have any concerns regarding your child returning to school in the fall, there will be an option to continue online learning for your child. Guidelines and registration will be available on our website beginning July 20th and must be completed by Monday, August 3rd.

Thank you for your support during this difficult time. I always say that Blue Lions are resilient and this challenging time is no exception. Our faculty and students went above and beyond during the closure in March, April, and May. I am very proud of everyone who came together to educate our youth during this time. Thank you to all parents and guardians, we could not have done it without you. With that said, we STILL need you to be a true partner with Washington Court House City Schools to build the strongest group of learners in the State of Ohio!

Sincerely,

Dr. Tom Bailey
Superintendent

