

Dear Parents and Families of Waltonville Community Unit School District #1,

Currently, Jefferson County is in Phase 4 (Revitalization). During this phase, schools can reopen under guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health and the State Board of Education. With this knowledge, we reviewed the health and safety guidance previously presented and considered different learning plan models for the start of the 20-21 school year. A team of teachers and administrators met on multiple occasions throughout the summer to ensure a safe and manageable return to school for all students and staff.



Blended Learning Model: Face to Face learning with a remote learning component.

The cornerstone to our plan identifies the following principles:

1. Maintain the health and safety of all students and staff;
2. Provide meaningful and engaging academic experiences for *all* students;
3. Address the social and emotional needs of all students;
4. Provide consistency and stability for all students and staff; and
5. Provide continuous professional learning opportunities for staff that address learning needs unique to this time.

From an instructional perspective, we believe that providing a consistent and stable learning environment is a critical element for student success. And while we are all wanting to return to normalcy, we acknowledge that essential health and safety measures present barriers in restoring what we know as normal. Given these barriers, we will do whatever is possible to offer as much face-to-face instruction while maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment.

Our team has determined the best method to meet everyone's needs is to have students at school with a modified day using face-to-face instruction.

| Phase 4 (Revitalization) | |
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| <p><i>Face-to-Face Learning</i> <u>Monday – Thursday</u> 8:10 a.m. – 2:10 p.m. <u>Friday</u> 8:10 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.</p> | <p><i>Students Participate in Remote Learning</i> <u>Friday</u> 12:10 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.</p> |
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All Students

- Students begin the fall semester with face-to-face learning on Friday, August 14, 2020 with dismissal at 12:10.
- **NOTE: DURING THIS MODIFIED SCHEDULE PERIOD, DROP OFF FOR SCHOOL WILL NOT BEGIN UNTIL 7:45 a.m.**
- **HS STUDENTS ONLY: Student drivers are to remain in their vehicle until directed by staff to enter the building. If a student is being dropped off, s/he may enter the building no earlier than 7:45 and will be directed to the gym. Students will be assigned a specific area to maintain appropriate social distancing.**
- All students should bring a backpack and water bottle to school.
- **HS STUDENTS ONLY: NO LOCKERS WILL BE USED.**
- Face-to-face will be Monday-Thursdays from 8:10-2:10 and Fridays from 8:10-12:10 (sack lunches will be available on Fridays for students to take home if they would like to purchase one).
- Remote learning will occur on Fridays from 12:10-2:10.

- All face-to-face and remote learning will include regular attendance and grading practices. Throughout phase 4, face-to-face with a remote learning component on Fridays will remain the backbone of our instructional delivery model.
- Additional support services through RTI and remote methods will be offered to all students by appointment and/or teacher request on Friday afternoons. Examples of these services include:
 - Academic support;
 - Counseling;
 - Case management; and
 - Related service, as needed.
- All students will participate in a Tier 1 curriculum designed to address the social/emotional needs of students.
 - The Tier 1 curriculum will include components that serve as a screener for students who need Tier 2 and 3 interventions and supports.
 - This is a critical component of the plan as it ensures that students feel safe and ready to learn.

Bus or Drop Off Procedures:

- **Students are encouraged to be dropped off by a parent or guardian if possible.**
- All students must ride the same bus each day. No student is allowed switch buses at any time or for any reason.
- All students must sit in the same seat each day on the bus. All siblings or households will be seated together.
- Masks must be worn while riding the bus.
- No eating or drinking on the bus.

Under current guidelines and commendations our Return to School Plans will require:

- All students and staff to wear personal protective equipment face masks (medical exemptions may apply);
- Maintain social distancing as much as possible;
- Check temperatures- both buildings have purchased a thermal temperature scanner to assist with this process but we are also asking parents to be vigilant and check their child's temperature each day as well.
- The buildings to be cleaned multiple times throughout the day and deep cleaned in the evening;
- All buses and school vehicles to be cleaned after each use.

Next Steps

As we continue to develop the best learning model for our students, the following represent a few of the questions that we are processing on an ongoing basis:

Operational

- How does any new guidance for school reopening issued by the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Department of Public Health, or the Jefferson County Department of Public Health impact our current plan?
- How does the current plan meet the needs and expectations of our local school community, including our students, parents, and staff?
- In what ways can we continue on the path to opening our schools?

Academics, Activities, Athletics, and the Arts

- How will we ensure an academic environment in which all students can succeed while maintaining academic integrity?
- How will we address "learning loss", or potential knowledge gaps from the previous grade level?
- How will we address the social and emotional needs of students and staff as a new school year begins?
- Will it be possible to provide athletic and extracurricular opportunities this fall? How will we ensure that these activities are both safe and meaningful?

Please note the following dates on your calendar:

School Registration is now open online thru July 29, 2020.

In person registration will be July 30, 2020, from 12:00 – 7:00 p.m.

First Day of Student Attendance August 14, 2020.

The Board of Education, Administration, and COVID Transition Team continues to be aware of the need to communicate to the families about what to expect next school year. Please remember that the state's guidelines and requirements could change at any moment, and we will be prepared. We truly appreciate your patience and understanding during this time. We have missed the students and look forward to their return!! Go Jr. Spartans/Spartans!

