



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Updated November 16, 2020**

#### **1. Making the decision to be virtual or face to face, and scheduling questions:**

##### **a. If we decide one way, can we change our decision?**

- i. High School – Parents/guardians will continue to be able to switch students from In-Person learning to Fully Virtual learning at anytime during the remainder of 1<sup>st</sup> semester and for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. Parents/guardians requesting their child be switched from Fully Virtual learning to In-Person learning, will be handled on a case by case basis with teacher class sizes being taken into consideration. Special Education/504 students will be able to switch at any time.
- ii. Middle School – In the fall, it was difficult to switch students back and forth between methods. We are working to develop a schedule that might be more conducive to those switches.
- iii. Elementary Schools – We prefer not to switch elementary students.

##### **b. If they go face to face from virtual, will their teachers change?**

- i. There is definitely a possibility that students will have to switch teachers at the semester.
  1. At the High School, students are accustomed to switching teachers at the semester break.
  2. At the Middle School, students have historically switched for electives, but there is a chance students will have to change core classroom teachers as well.
  3. At the Elementary, while it is not preferred, we may have to switch teachers depending on what families choose for their child's instructional model for second semester.

##### **c. Are you going to start offering hybrid?**

- i. At this time, we are not considering a hybrid model. However, if the demand for face to face instruction exceeds our capacity to safely provide in person learning, we may need to reconsider our options.

##### **d. Do you foresee us going back to normal this school year/next school year?**

- i. Unfortunately, due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 virus including cases, vaccines and testing, there is no way to foresee when schools will go back to "normal." WWPS will continue to make decisions on what is best for all students by following guidelines and orders from the local (county), state and federal levels.

##### **e. Will the scheduling stay the same next semester (times, teachers, etc.)**

- i. Right now, we are planning for the hours to remain the same, but the teachers may change based on parent choice of in-person or virtual.

##### **f. If more students decide to go face to face next semester, how might that effect class sizes?**

- i. If more students choose to go face-to-face, obviously that means we will have more students in buildings. We are committed to keeping class sizes lower than the typical size as dictated by contract. We are also committed to maintaining as much social distancing as possible.

##### **g. What is the deadline to decide?**

- i. Parents will be presented with options via email by November 24, 2020. Parents will then need to decide by **December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020** if they are going to have their student(s) stay in their current instructional model or switch. Changes would begin January 19, 2021.

## **2. Online issues and questions:**

### **a. Can there be more brief instructional videos rather than all day long instruction?**

- i. Teachers are working tirelessly to offer a variety of instructional methods to keep students engaged. On our recent survey, most parents thought that the amount of screen time was acceptable. If you have an individual concern, please reach out to your child's teacher and let him/her know how your child is struggling.

### **b. Please make having the camera on required the entire time.**

- i. While students at all levels are strongly encouraged to have their camera on at all times. We are cognizant of the stress and anxiety this causes some of our students. For this reason, while turning cameras on is strongly encouraged, it is not required.

### **c. Can there be more one-on-one/small groups online?**

- i. We agree that small group and one-on-one support is ideal. With this in mind, we've continued to maintain our expectation of small group reading instruction in all K-5 classrooms. Additionally, we will also continue to host tutoring support that will be available for struggling students before or after school in both literacy and math.
- ii. At our secondary level, we aim to provide opportunities for small group or one-on-one support during teachers established office hours.

### **d. Can we get laptops to use at home if we didn't get one already?**

- i. WWPS has deployed over 1330 laptop computers to students this fall. We currently have a limited number of laptops left to be loaned out. Please contact your building principal to see if one is available.

### **e. What do we do if we have connectivity issues?**

- i. If you are experiencing issues with connectivity or lack internet service, WWPS has a limited number of internet "hotspots" available for families to borrow. Please contact your building principal to see if one is available.

### **f. Are students receiving proper amount of instructional time online?**

- i. Yes, students are receiving equitable instructional time whether a parent has selected face-to-face or remote learning. Whether a student is engaged online or sitting in a physical classroom, there are opportunities for independent practice that is considered a part of instructional time.

### **g. Are IEP goals being met online?**

- i. Yes. IEP goals must be followed regardless of learning platform. Due to the nature of online learning, meeting those goals may look different for virtual students than they do for in-person students. If you feel your child's IEP goals are not being met, please contact your child's provider.

### **h. Can we get more supplemental materials to help our children?**

- i. If you would like additional materials, contact your classroom teacher for additional options.

### **i. Why can't online students receive specials? Specifically: art, STEM, music and library**

- i. While we agree that forgoing some K-5 specials is not ideal, we are forced to make difficult instructional decisions due to COVID. We determined that Specials teachers who had the necessary qualifications and experience as grade-level teachers were needed to help alleviate the face to face class sizes. This decision was not made lightly but done to ensure the safety of our face-to-face students.

- ii. In an effort to provide students with enrichment opportunities, we will continue to brainstorm and work with teachers to be able to make available online content and lessons for students to complete at their own pace. We hope to launch that very soon.

**j. Why is online SAT not being offered to those online?**

- i. PSAT 8/9, PSAT NMSQT and SAT are property of College Board Corporation. College Board does not currently have online versions of these tests. Any student taking the test must do it in person. WWMS, EHS and WWT are required to follow very strict guidelines from College Board with regard to the handling and administering of these exams.

**k. Students attending MMSTC are struggling with scheduling issues. Can this be fixed?**

- i. Unfortunately, we are not able to perfectly coordinate schedules between two buildings and districts. Students who attend MMSTC are encouraged to attend those classes. Teachers at WWT are understanding of the conflict and will continue to be flexible and accommodate MMSTC students as much as possible.

**3. Where do I go to see grades, assignments, the actual school calendar (days off etc.)?**

- a. **Grades-** Parents can login in the PowerSchool parent portal or PowerSchool app at any time to see their student's grades and attendance. If you need your PowerSchool parent login information, please contact your child's school. You can connect to the ParentPortal by clicking on the following link or by going to the WWPS website.  
<https://ps.waw.misd.net/public/home.html>
- b. **Assignments-** In addition to PowerSchools, parents can login to see their child's assignments in the district's online platform – Schoology. If you need your Schoology login or password, please contact your building principal.
- c. **School Calendar-** The 2020-2021 District Calendar is located on the WWPS Website under Parent/Student Links.

**4. Are lunch menus sent out? Where can people find out what is being served that day?**

- a. Breakfast and Lunch Menus for all buildings are located on the WWPS Website under the Food Service Menus link at the top of the page.

**5. If you have to do a full shut down, how much notice can parents expect to receive?**

- a. If the district, with guidance from the Macomb County Health Department, determines that the safety of our students and staff require the district to stop in-person instruction, as much notice as possible will be given to families so that they can make arrangements to meet their family's needs. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the virus and how quickly things can escalate, there is no timeline that can be provided.
- b. If the decision is made to close schools at the state or federal level, WWPS will follow those directives adhering to the timelines they set forth.

**6. Safety concerns**

**a. What is the mask rule?**

- i. Students and staff (unless they are alone in a confined office) must wear a mask at all times while in school with the exception of when they eat. The mask must cover the student/staff members mouth and nose.

**b. Are most people compliant?**

- i. While a few students at each building occasionally need to be reminded to pull their mask up, principals at each building are very pleased with the cooperation and compliance we have received from our students and staff.

**c. What is the rule for staff mask use after school?**

- i. During non-instructional hours, staff are required to wear masks in all common areas (halls, copy rooms, offices, lounges) or anywhere they come in contact with other individuals.

- d. What is the rule for masks and sporting events?**
  - i. WWPS follows guidelines and directives from local (county), state and federal agencies including the MHSSA. As of November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, all sports are paused for three weeks. If sports are resumed, students in all winter sports (basketball, wrestling, competitive cheer, bowling) with the exception of boys swimming, must wear a mask at all times during practices and competitions.
- e. Are parents required to wear masks when watching sporting events?**
  - i. Yes. Parents are required wear a mask while at any sporting event.
- f. Why are you requiring masks when they use the plastic dividers?**
  - i. WWPS follows guidelines and directives from local (county), state and federal agencies- this includes an order that students from K-12 wear a mask while in school. WWPS has chosen to provide plastic dividers as another layer of protection at certain levels or situations.
- g. Why are you allowing students to take their masks off when outside; don't they get too close to each other at recess?**
  - i. During designated times, students are allowed to have a "Mask Break" where they are social distanced from each other and allowed to take their mask off for a short period of time while under their teacher's observation.
- h. Are there temperature checks for staff and students upon entering the building?**
  - i. Currently the Center for Disease Control (CDC) does not recommend mass temperature checks for students. While a fever is symptom of COVID-19, some infected students and staff may not exhibit a fever or other symptoms. WWPS has asked parents to check their child's temperature before sending them to school. All WWPS staff are required to complete a Workplace Screening Tool upon entering a district building, this includes them indicating their current temperature.
- i. Are masks and shields still available for instructional and/or support staff?**
  - i. Yes. Please contact your building administrator. We have face shields available for staff. Masks should already be available in your building. We have purchased enough for each staff and student to use two masks per day.
- j. Are KN95 masks available for paras and/or other support staff that deal with biological issues (ex: saliva)?**
  - i. Yes. KN95 masks are being sent to each building. Please contact your building administrator and/or nurse if you need medical-grade PPE for specific situations in which a biological contamination is a factor.
- k. Are gowns available for paras/support staff?**
  - i. Yes. There are plenty of gowns at the high school available for re-distribution for immediate use. Mandi DiBartolomeo is working closely with Matthew Dishman on selecting/procuring gowns that will be used moving forward. For now, gowns are available for all support staff.
- l. Are the buildings/classrooms being ventilated properly?**
  - i. Yes. The buildings are filtering/recycling more air than is necessary in order to make sure air quality is acceptable/healthy. In addition, air filters have been upgraded since the start of the pandemic.
- m. Why is there a delay in communication? Why is the news/social media finding out before staff?**
  - i. Due to the time it takes to individually and personally contact all students required to quarantine, some families may communicate with each other before all calls have been made. This may include texting, posting on social media, or contacting the news outlets. The district needs to make these personal calls first, before all the other people in the building are notified that there was a case.

- n. Are there still trifold dividers available for staff or replacements for students?**
  - i. Please contact your building principals if you need more or a replacement trifold divider.
- o. Is the district reporting all cases of COVID to staff? Why are some appearing on the state dashboard?**
  - i. The district is reporting all probable/confirmed student/staff cases of COVID that we are notified about from parents/staff. There are reporting irregularities on the state website for a number of reasons. Currently, the MCHD categorizes cases by zip code of the COVID positive patient. Obviously, this is problematic because not all students live in the same zip code where their school is located. In addition, we are reporting all cases for in person students that we are notified about. If there is a virtual student who does not attend in person school, the MCHD has asked us not to report that case on our page. The district is following all reporting/quarantining guidelines set by the MDHHS.
- p. Do you plan to have everyone get tested before they go back to school?**
  - i. WWPS follows guidelines and directives from local (county), state and federal agencies. At this time, students/staff are not required to be tested for COVID-19 before coming back to school.
- q. What are your procedures for quarantine?**
  - i. Students and staff persons with symptoms, who test positive for COVID-19 or who are a probable case of COVID-19 may return to school/work if:
    - 1. At least 10 days have passed since symptom onset **AND**
    - 2. At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
    - 3. Other symptoms have improved
  - ii. Students and staff persons who never had symptoms but who test positive for COVID-19 may return to school/work if at least 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 test (provided no symptoms appeared during the 10-day period).
  - iii. Any student or staff person who is a close contact of a person with confirmed or probable COVID-19 will be sent home from school and remain quarantined at home for 14 days after the date of last exposure (for non-household contacts). The quarantine period for household contacts is 14 days after the date the person with confirmed or probable COVID-19 completes their isolation period if ongoing close household contact cannot be avoided. If ongoing close contact can be avoided, the quarantine period is 14 days after the date close household contact ended.
  - iv. Students or staff persons who are contacts of a contact do not need to quarantine for 14 days. Contacts of a contact are persons who have not had direct contact with a person with confirmed or probable COVID-19 but instead have had close contact with someone who has had direct contact with a person with confirmed or probable COVID-19.
  - v. WWPS follows all guidelines of the MCHD which can be found here: <https://health.macombgov.org/Covid19-ResourcesForSchools>
- r. Why are you not allowing students to go to their lockers?**
  - i. Students at WWMS and WWT are not allowed to use their lockers in an attempt to limit students congregating in halls, to maximize social distancing and to limit the number of touch points that need to be disinfected throughout the day.
- s. How many cases of COVID have we had in Warren Woods?**
  - i. The district is required to report that information on our website. You can find it here: <https://www.warrenwoods.misd.net/our-district/return-to-school/covid-19-dashboard/>
- t. What are your reporting requirements?**
  - i. School administration must report any student or staff person with confirmed or probable COVID-19 to the Macomb County Health Department.

- ii. School administration must notify school staff and student families on the school's website when a student or staff person with confirmed or probable COVID-19 has been identified in a school while maintaining the confidentiality of the student or staff person as required by state and federal laws. School administration may also choose to provide written notification to school staff and student families.
  - iii. The Macomb County Health Department will work with the school to identify close contacts of the student or staff person with confirmed or probable COVID-19.
  - iv. A close contact is someone who has been within 6 feet of the student or staff person with confirmed or probable COVID-19 for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic persons, 2 days prior to test specimen collection). The determination of close contact should be made irrespective of the use of face coverings.
  - v. Close contacts should be notified and instructed to remain quarantined at home for 14 days after the last contact with the student or staff person. Day zero (0) is the day of last contact and the quarantine period ends at midnight on day 14.
- u. Why is more information not given out about who has it?**
- i. WWPS is very cognizant regarding protecting individual's privacy rights (HIPPA). For this reason, no information will be provided that directly or in-directly identifies a student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19 or has been asked to quarantine.
- v. How many cases do we need to have before you close a school?**
- i. WWPS works very closely with the Macomb County Health Department. It is with their guidance that WWPS will decide whether a classroom, building or the district needs to close. In making the decision, MCHD not only looks at the number of cases in a school or district, but whether or not the student or staff member contracted the virus from someone within the school.
- w. Why do you require people to quarantine for 14 days?**
- i. The guidelines from the Macomb County Health Department and the CDC indicate that the incubation period for COVID-19 can last up to 14 days from exposure. Quarantine protocols are addressed in letter M above.
- x. If students are in quarantine, can they sign into the virtual classes so they don't miss instruction time?**
- i. WWT – Yes. Students can easily transition to virtual instruction.
  - ii. The following are options that the team will consider when a student is absent due to being quarantined in grades K-8.
    1. Student is added to virtual grade level partner's Microsoft Teams (contingent on Teacher contact numbers, conscious of contract allowance) so the student can receive live instruction. The face-to-face teacher is still responsible for establishing attendance, providing feedback on lessons, and grading.
    2. Virtual teacher provides a recorded lesson and shares with the face-to-face teacher to post on Schoology. (Converted to MP4 or changes Stream permissions)
    3. Face-to-face teacher records themselves making lessons and posts them on Schoology.
    4. The face to face teacher live streams lessons throughout the day. The face to face teacher will use a district laptop or a district live steam camera to provide the opportunity for students to view live lessons.
- y. Why can't students in quarantine attend their after-school sports?**
- i. While on quarantine, students and staff may be contagious and are not to be on school property. Quarantined individuals are encouraged to isolate at home until their quarantine is over.

**z. How do you clean the school/classrooms at night?**

- i. In addition to all buildings continuing to receive their regular cleaning. All buildings are both disinfected and sanitized.
  1. **Sanitizing** is done every 4 hours throughout the day in adherence to the WWPS Return to School Plan. It involves electrostatically spraying all major touch points. Sanitizer is sprayed on touch points and is allowed to dry, it is food safe and safe for students to touch.
  2. **Disinfecting** occurs each night on all major touch points. It involves spraying the surface and then wiping it dry.

**aa. Do you fog the rooms?**

- i. No, rooms are not “fogged,” they are cleaned, sanitized and disinfected in adherence to the WWPS Return to School Plan. We use the electrostatic sprayers in cafeterias and on buses.

**bb. What are your plans for lining up outside in the cold weather?**

- i. In an effort to limit students congregating in the school and to improve social distancing, schools will remain locked until their designated opening time as explained in the WWPS Return to Learning Plan. Parents are encouraged to drop their students off as close to the building entry time as possible.