

Washington Township Public Schools



Restart and Recovery Plan: *Frequently Asked Questions*

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Curriculum, Instruction, and Scheduling

What will remote instruction look like?

- Students will be given opportunities to learn via an asynchronous platform where teachers are recording lessons, providing documents, and giving direction. We also have increased the opportunity for students to interact with our teachers. Wednesdays are a remote instruction day during which teachers will offer office hours, where students can log on to their devices, visit with their teachers, get clarifications, and ask questions to get the help and the direction they need. Additionally, our students who need supports – for example BSI and speech services – those services can be provided through direct instruction through the remote model for students who are in need.

Will there be “live” instruction when the students are learning remotely?

- We are increasing the availability and connectivity of our staff so that any student can connect with a teacher when learning remotely. As previously mentioned, we have built time into the schedule to provide live small group and individual instruction, as well as check-ins and other services. While we will not “live stream” all lessons, we are increasing live lessons and other live supports.

If my child begins the year remotely, can we switch to in-person learning at any time (and vice-versa)?

- Yes. Parents may request a change to their child’s mode of instruction once per quarter. Please allow at least two weeks for the school to accommodate the request. Special circumstances will be considered.

Will there be group work/social interaction for students, including those working remotely? (group WebEx/Teams meetings, group projects)

- Absolutely. This is part of our more robust remote learning model. During office hours, teachers will make themselves available during a specific period of time on a given day, mostly on Wednesdays. At those times, students will have to opportunity to log in and visit with their teachers, along with other students in their class. The interaction will not only be between the teacher and student, but also between the students themselves.

Can teachers live stream the lessons they are teaching in the classroom so that students who are learning remotely can feel included as part of the class?

- Live streaming presents many challenges. The first challenge is the ability to live stream every teacher in every building at the same time during the day. Assuming this can be accomplished, the other difficulty is the wi-fi capability in each of our students’ homes. We cannot assume that all students have sufficient wi-fi capabilities; therefore, it would not be equitable to live

stream instruction. The other concern is how the live instruction would be recorded. Teachers are very mobile in their teaching, modeling, and demonstrations. We do not have cameras that can pan the classroom and appropriately follow the teacher as he/she moves, nor are we able to install such cameras due to time constraints and the significant expense of the cameras. If teachers were to live stream, they would have to do so from their laptops, which would require teachers to remain in one location while they are teaching in the classroom. This would limit certain instructional strategies. There may be some opportunities for this mode of instruction delivery, but seeing it all day, every day is not technologically sound at this particular time.

My child has an IEP. Will he/she receive the services that he/she is entitled to?

- Yes. Students who are coming to school can avail themselves to those services in the building. For students who will be learning remotely, services will be provided virtually.

Will the Pre-K program still be available?

- Yes. Pre-K students will attend in-person instruction four days per week – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The Pre-K program is a four-day-per-week program; therefore, Pre-K students will not receive instruction on Wednesdays.

Health and Safety

What safety precautions are being taken at school and on the buses?

How will the classrooms/buses be sanitized daily and in between classes and runs?

What types of cleaning products will be used?

- Many of the details pertaining to these questions are still being worked out by the District's Health and Safety Committee, and as we get closer to the start of school, the evolution of different procedures will be put into place. Presently, we will be providing the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for all staff, including face masks and shields, where necessary, particularly in self-contained settings. Students will be required to wear face masks while in school and on the bus. We are purchasing face masks and to be provided to students, as needed. Throughout the course of the day, the buildings will be continuously disinfected. All the products that are being used to disinfect have been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Supplies will be provided to each classroom for "spot cleaning" throughout the day by staff and perhaps even older students who choose to clean their desk independently. Buildings will be disinfected every evening by the custodial staff. In addition to routine cleaning further sanitizing will occur every Wednesday when students are remote. School buses will be cleaned twice per day – once in between our AM and PM run, and then again after the PM run. Bus drivers will be supplied with the appropriate supplies need to "spot clean" as needed. In addition, the district has purchased electrostatic sprayers, which will spray the appropriate EPA-approved chemicals. This is a fast-drying solution that automatically kills

any virus on contact and does not need to be wiped down. This will be utilized during the day throughout the district.

Will children be required to wear masks? Teachers/staff? What if a student refuses to wear a mask?

- Yes. Per the Governor's directive, all students and staff are required to wear a mask. Students who have documented medical difficulties wearing a mask would be excused. Students who are able to wear a mask but do not comply would be restricted from school until such time they are prepared to comply. If they choose not to comply, they may choose to stay in the remote setting.

If a student or staff member contracts the virus or comes in contact with someone who contracted the virus, will everyone who came in contact with that person be required to quarantine?

- We are following the protocol determined by the Gloucester County Department of Health (GCDOH). According to the GCDOH, a mandated quarantine will be dependent upon the proximity and time exposed to the infected person. If social distancing was maintained and masks worn, a quarantine is not currently required. Please see these additional District screening and return protocols:
 - [Student Screening Flowchart](#)
 - [Staff Screening Flowchart](#)
 - [Return to School Flowchart](#)

Will the district be allowing substitute teachers? If so, what precautions are being taken when utilizing a sub?

- We are working with our substitute provider, ESS, to establish a cache of permanent substitutes for each building, essentially making them part of the staff with that specific building. They will be required to complete all safety protocols that our WTPS staff is mandated to complete, including daily symptom checking.

Will there be proper ventilation in the classrooms/offices for staff and students allowing fresh air? If not, will the staff/students in those rooms be moved to rooms with appropriate ventilation?

- As required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), all our HVAC systems have a fresh air component, so all rooms receive fresh air. Most rooms are equipped with windows that staff may open should they so choose.

Will staff be required to be tested prior to the start of school?

- Presently, no. We ask our staff to self-monitor for the symptoms listed by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in the same manner that we are asking our parents and students. We are, however, working to make COVID testing available to all WTPS staff and students should anyone wish to be tested. We are hoping that this testing will be free.

Technology

How can I get a laptop for my student to use during remote learning?

- A distribution plan will be forthcoming to receive a laptop (3-12) or iPad (K-2). We have planned for every student to have their own device, which allows us to increase synchronous instruction. Additionally, we are prepared to provide wi-fi hotspots for families in need to ensure all families have access to the internet.

Athletics/Health and PE/School Activities

Will students still be attending gym classes? How will this be organized? Will they be using gym lockers and changing clothes?

- For the beginning of the school year, we will be providing physical education instruction remotely at the secondary level. Students will not be reporting to the gym or utilizing lockers or locker rooms; therefore, they will not need to change clothes. Physical education teachers at the elementary level will enter classrooms to teach gym and will utilize outdoor space whenever possible. We will continue to evaluate the implementation of physical education to determine how best to conduct this class and related courses for the remainder of the school year.

Will extracurricular activities and athletics still be available to students?

- It is our intention that as many activities as possible will continue. The NJSIAA, the governing body for high school sports in New Jersey, is planning on the Fall sports season. It will be an abbreviated schedule and will include bolstered safety requirements and protocols. We intend to continue any activity that can exist in a virtual environment, such as student government. Other extracurricular activities and intramural sports may not be feasible in a virtual environment; therefore, it will not be offered. A full list of available activities is forthcoming.

School Climate-Counseling (Social and Emotional Support)

Is there counseling available for children who are feeling depressed due to the effects of COVID?

- Yes. We have further increased opportunities for our counselors to make direct contact with our students who may need counseling services. Wednesdays, especially, are dedicated to providing this support.

Transportation

There will be more parents driving their children to school and picking them up. How will drop-off and pickup be organized to avoid chaos?

- Based on the survey data that we have received from parents we have a good picture of how many students will be riding buses versus how many students will be dropped off. With this information, each school will develop its own traffic plan to include multiple drop-off and entry points to relieve traffic pressure and reduce congregation. As with any plan, we will monitor and evaluate to make any necessary revisions or accommodations to ensure the most efficient pickup and drop-off that we can achieve.