

West Central Community Schools

Maynard, Randalia, and Westgate

Good Afternoon Parents, Students, and Community Members,

Over the past several months, our communities, county, state, country and world has struggled with a COVID-19 pandemic. Our school teachers, staff, drivers, cooks, nurse, and administrators have worked tirelessly to ensure that we can maintain a safe and equitable learning environment. I am sad to report that we are coming up short in our mission.

We continue to have students and staff that have been tested or have tested positive. We have students and staff that are quarantining due to exposure. The numbers are well below the state requirements to go virtually, but are slowly increasing. The number of students in quarantine is rising, with contact tracing revealing that the majority of exposure to COVID-19 is not happening in school, but outside of school through community spread. That tells us that what we are doing at school is working. Even though we have a small number of students testing positive, we need to make sure that everything we are doing is what is best for all students, in all grades.

In the event that the district needed to make a change in the learning of our students. The district would consult with the Return to Learn Committee, Fayette County Public Health, Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Department of Education, Administration, School Nurse, and the West Central Board of Education, if the district would make a change to our learning model. If these mitigation measures are successful, we would hope that our students would return to the face to face model.

Here is the plan in the event that we would need to transition to hybrid or virtual:

On Day One:

- School will have a dismissal at 1:05.
- Day One will be used to make sure that students that need devices have them, along with Internet access points for those that need them.
- Staff would plan the rest of the day in preparation for the next days of learning, either hybrid or virtual.
- **A quick reminder, the wireless access point is for school work, and will not allow access to iTunes, social media, Disney+, Netflix, etc.**

Day Two through Day Ten or As Approved by the West Central Board of Education/Iowa Department of Education:

- **If the District would need to go Hybrid:**
 - o Grades 6-12 will be educated using the hybrid model, using an alternating A-B day format. You can expect to receive information from your building principal with more information.
 - o Grades PK-5 will remain face to face for the foreseeable future.
 - o Students needing lunches would need to notify the district office, and lunches would be available for pick up from the school building. More info will be available if the district moves to hybrid or virtual.
 - o All buildings will be closed to outside groups using our facilities during this time, and could be extended based on what is best for our communities, staff, and students.
- **If the District Would Need To Go Virtual:**
 - o All students in grades PK-12 would move towards virtual learning.
 - Refer to the District Return to Learn Plan for More Information.
 - o Activities and Athletics:
 - All sports and activities would be temporarily suspended.
 - Games and events will be rescheduled if possible. There can be no organized practices by the coaches or sponsors during this time.

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We will continue to monitor the data daily and will adjust when warranted. If the district would need to transition to a hybrid or an all virtual learning model, the district will give as much notice as possible. Please discuss at home how the family would work with daycare, etc. in case the district would need to move more quickly than we would like.

The district will release daily numbers, when they are provided of the county infection rates and the number of students in quarantine and/or tested positive (Isolation). This information will be shared on the school website, and on the school app. The school app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store or the Android Google Play Store.

In closing, we are in this together, and we must work together to ensure the safety of our community members, students, staff and family. The upcoming holiday season does so much to bind us together, through family, community and nation, so please be safe and take care of yourself and family during these difficult days.

Respectfully Yours,

Fred Matlage
Superintendent

Matthew Molumby
Pk-12 Principal

Samantha Baumgartner
PK-12 Interventionist

Return to Learn Committee