

**Wheatland J1 School District
Return to School Plan
2020-2021**





Martin L. McGinley – *District Administrator*
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Towns of Wheatland – Brighton – Randall – Salem
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Wheatland J1 School District

Wheatland Warhawk Families:

Like all of you, we have been working hard to construct our new normal. We have met with many constituencies including area school districts, local health professionals, school board members, and staff members. We have surveyed parents, discussed options with staff, and planned for all potential scenarios. We want to thank those that took the survey. We received thoughtful comments, great questions and some excellent suggestions from approximately half of our parent population (See results below). We also had many parents submit concerns about the fall. As many of you expressed, these are not easy decisions, and we thank you for your understanding and acknowledgement of the work being done to get ready for the fall.

Unfortunately, there is no one size fits all solution to this challenge. While we cannot remove all risk, we are working diligently to mitigate risk where possible and allow for options and individual choice. Due to the uncertainty of this pandemic we are preparing for a sustainable model that can last the full school year if needed. There will be check points at several times throughout the year to determine a path forward and to allow for adjustments.

I cannot stress enough that this plan will continue to evolve as new information comes to light each and every day. Our goal is to have a flexible and responsive solution that moves fluidly on the spectrum from least restrictive to most restrictive as we continue to learn and grow in our understanding of the pandemic. We have students coming from over 400 square miles, and staff members coming from 5 counties and 2 states, so while this is a local plan for Wheatland, it is critical that it takes into consideration the best information regionally. Our guiding principles were developed to create the learning plan for the 2020-2021 school year. Those principles include:

Safety

Student and staff safety continue to be the top priority. The reopening plan reflects guidance from the CDC, State of Wisconsin, and Kenosha County Health Department.

Instructional Continuity

The learning plan reflects a preference for traditional learning with a focus on creating conditions to safely reopen school. Instructional models include blended and virtual options in the event traditional classroom learning cannot occur.

Flexibility

Plans were developed to allow for a fluid response keeping in mind staff, student and parent capacity, coupled with district resources.



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Equity

The school closure negatively impacted some students more than others. As we return in the fall, we will work hard to provide equitable services so those needing the most assistance will get the support they need to accelerate their learning.

Despite the challenges we face starting the year, we are committed to making this our best year yet. We have a first-class staff, ready to deliver a world class education to our Wheatland students. We are confident our staff, students and community will meet this opportunity with creativity, resiliency, and resolve. Please know that this is just the beginning of a plan that will evolve, and additional details will be made known as soon as we have them. We are working to develop an FAQ document based on your questions. As always, we appreciate your support and look forward to fulfilling our core mission of building the skills and dispositions our students will need to fulfill the promise of success.

Sincerely,

Marty McGinley
District Administrator

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Learning Plan Options

We feel it is critical to have choices for students and parents that emphasize flexible parallel learning environments. We do not yet have all the answers to what that looks like, but we know we will have to continue to improve and put systems in place to accommodate teachers and students as the landscape changes. We learned in the spring that virtual teaching done well, requires as much or more effort from teachers than face to face instruction. Due to this, teachers will need some time to plan, and give feedback to all students. We stand behind the quality of our teachers, and the work they do every day. I trust that they will help make this the best plan possible.

The goal is for students at all grade levels to have access to electives, art, music and physical education. We will be implementing an elementary model for all students 4K-8. They will have multiple academic teachers that specialize in reading and math, while science, social studies, and elective area teachers will come to them. Our goal is to limit the overall contact students have with students and staff outside of their cohort. We want to be ready to return to school fully as the risk dissipates, but we also need to be ready to institute additional restrictions if needed.

There will need to be an array of flexible options as we move on the continuum from least restrictive to most restrictive. They are as follows:

4 Days a Week Blended Option

Students will attend Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. They will have virtual instruction on Wednesday. This is the least restrictive option reserved for areas in the school where we are able to adequately physically distance.

A/B Blended Option

Students will be assigned to Monday/Tuesday, or Thursday/Friday in-person and the other three days of the week will be virtual. Students will follow the same curriculum as all other students, but will have the ability to get face to face feedback from teachers on the days they are physically in the building.

Fully Virtual Option *(All students are eligible to select this option)*

While students in all models will be using virtual methods for instruction, Wheatland students will have the opportunity to select a fully virtual environment. This will include, video lessons, streaming live video content, periodic feedback from teachers, and interaction with classmates where possible. The instructional path will mirror their classmates that are served by in-person models. Wheatland teachers did a great job building up to this in the spring and will only get better with additional practice.

Based on July 29 board approval the following models will be used to start the year at each grade level. This will be re-evaluated each month based on continued conversations with area health officials, the board, and other school districts. We will be sending out information on a selection process if parents are opting for a more restrictive model as described below:

4K - 4th Grade students will begin the year in the 4 day per week option (All students can also select the A/B or virtual option).

5th Grade through 8th Grade will begin the year in the A/B option (All students are also able to select the fully virtual option).

Rationale

Initially we have prioritized our resources to make sure the younger students have as many face to face opportunities as possible to recognize our custodial commitment to parents and community members. By using all spaces and available personnel at the elementary level, we are able to reduce instructional groups down to 12 or fewer students for the majority of the instructional day. Again, we are trying to mitigate exposure.

Due to the size of our classes in the middle school there is no conceivable way to reduce class sizes to allow for physical distancing even after adding additional staff this year. We felt having 25+ students in some of our middle school classrooms would not be safe or effective to begin the school year.

Students will be assigned a cohort. The goal is to limit the number of staff and students they are interacting with each day. By limiting the cohort size we hope to limit the overall contact students have and allow for contact tracing if we have COVID-19 cases in the building. Our goal is to remain open for both face to face and virtual instruction. If we have teachers and students contracting the virus, we will not be able to accomplish this goal.

In addition, due to the potential for intermittent closures during the school year, it will be important to maintain a strong virtual presence. Wednesday's will be dedicated to virtual instruction school wide. We will be using video, live streaming, a common learning management system, and take home 1 to 1 computing in grades 1-8.

Learning Plan Logistics

- Wheatland will be following the 2020-21 academic calendar and classes will begin on September 1st.
- Virtual and in-person instruction will follow the same standards and scope and sequence.
- Families will be asked to commit to the chosen plan for at least the first trimester so more accurate preparation can occur.

Wednesdays

Students will have virtual learning responsibilities each Wednesday and will receive additional instruction. This will also allow teachers time to prepare and make contact with virtual students. Students will not have their traditional preparation time built in and will have more supervisory responsibilities. All grade levels will also be planning, with special education and elective area teachers as well during that time. As much as possible these classes will be integrated into the general curriculum in order to provide more consistency and efficiency. It also gives the custodians an opportunity to do a more extensive cleaning in the classrooms and highly trafficked areas with limited people in the building between each group of students.

Day to Day Operations and Precautions

While students are in the building we will be taking additional precautions to mitigate the risk of the COVID-19 virus. We will continue to revise these and add additional measures where it makes sense. The only way to guarantee physical distancing would be to go fully virtual for all students. For many reasons we feel this is too restrictive at this point for all students at Wheatland. Due to this, we will be attempting to physically distance as much as possible in order to reduce the associated risks. This is not an all or nothing proposition, limiting risk allows us to accommodate a return of students to the classroom.

Physical Distancing and Limiting Interactions to Smaller Cohorts

In an effort to physically distance as much as possible, we want to limit the number of individuals students interact with. The hope is that this will allow us to stay open if we have a student or staff member that tests positive for the virus. It would allow us to help the health department contact trace and we would hopefully only have to shut down a portion of the school and quarantine those impacted. If we have a COVID-19 positive event at Wheatland, the Kenosha County Health Department will be in charge of the quarantining process. According to the County if there is a positive test, any student or staff member who has had a significant interaction of over 15 minutes within the last 48 hours will also be quarantined for 14 days. If we do not limit the interactions each child has with others, we will likely be forced to close the entire school. The cohort model helps us limit the chances that this will happen and will allow us to stay open longer. Cohorts will also take turns using flexible areas throughout the building during class time and at lunch to get them out of the classroom and in to areas where they can effectively physical distance.

- We will promote and encourage the six foot rule for physical distancing in all spaces
- Students and parents will be asked not to congregate on the school grounds
- Staff will engage in physical distancing practices as much as possible
- Wheatland will hold meetings virtually to the extent possible
- Staff will eat lunch or take breaks in their own work space when possible and feasible
- Office visitors will be asked to maintain physical distance and will be served through the office window whenever possible

Classrooms

- Students will be spread out as much as possible
- There will be limited sharing of materials
- All staff will be used to spread students throughout the building as much as possible
- When moving throughout the building students will use one side of the hall and be spaced according to physical distancing guidelines

Lockers

Students will not be permitted to use lockers, they will be asked to carry items with them. Due to their schedule most items will be stored in the classroom.

Face Coverings

At this time, face coverings will be required for students and staff. Based on all guidance from health department officials, when unable to adequately physical distance, wearing face coverings is the single most important thing we can do to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Kenosha County Health Department issued a High Recommendation for face coverings to be used in schools. [Click here for a copy of the order.](#)

Again, students will be required to wear face coverings in grades 4K-8 when unable to physically distance.

- Wheatland will provide cloth face coverings for all students and staff
- Students and staff will be allowed to wear their own face coverings
- Disposable face coverings will be provided for students and staff that forget their mask

Students should launder their face coverings frequently. There will be times throughout the day when wearing a face covering will be impractical. There are also certain students that will be unable to wear face coverings due to their health condition and/or limitations. Health conditions and physical limitations that may prevent a child from wearing a face covering will be handled on an individual basis and will require documentation either from a physician or through the IEP process.

Food Service

The current plan is to bring bag lunches to the classroom for those eating school lunch. When weather permits students would likely have the opportunity to eat outside. Breakfast will be served in a grab and go fashion as students enter the building and they will eat in the classroom. In addition, we will have a route for delivery or a scheduled pick up for Wednesdays much like we did in the spring to make sure meals are available to all students.

Before and After School

Drop Off

We will designate specific entrances for students to minimize congestion and promote physical distancing. Students will move directly to classes. The building will not open until 7:45. Any elementary parents walking students to class the first week will be required to wear a face covering. After the first week parents will not be permitted in the building unless cleared through the office.

Pick Up

Wheatland may have a staggered pick up to spread out the number of students and parents at the end of the day. There will be more details to follow.

Transportation

- One student per seat where possible or students from the same grade cohort or family may sit together
- There will be an assigned seating chart for every bus
- Buses will load based on the seating chart
- Adults and students will wear face coverings
- Buses will be disinfected following each route with special attention paid to high touch areas
- Accommodation will be reviewed in IEPs to find solutions for each child
- Parents are encouraged to transport their child if possible
- Modifications will be made for drop off and pick up including a staggered release

Visitors

- All transactions will take place through the office window
- If for some reason a visitor needs to enter the building, they are required to wear a face covering and be screened for symptoms
- We will be limiting non-essential visitors in the building; this includes; parent and community volunteers, and guest speakers (We will include these visitors virtually when possible. All classroom visitors must be approved by the Principal 48 hours in advance)
- District/Community Meetings will be allowed when necessary, physical distancing and face coverings will be enforced in all common areas
- Students leaving early will be dismissed to meet their parent(s) outside. Students being dropped off will enter through the main office entrance and sign in through the vestibule.
- Delivery services will drop deliveries at a designated door away from students and staff traffic
- Families should be discouraged from dropping off forgotten items such as; homework assignments and musical instruments
- Families are encouraged to stay in their vehicles away from other people when picking up or dropping off students

Field Trips

No face to face field trips will be permitted at this time. This will be re-evaluated at the end of the first trimester.

Athletic and Extra-curricular Activities

The athletic conference Wheatland belongs to will be cancelling conference sports for the fall season. They will re-evaluate this as the school year progresses. Wheatland's after school activities will also be postponed until further notice including community education classes and outside use of the building.

Screening

Daily Screenings at Home

Our primary screening of students will involve recommending that parents perform a daily screening at home using the following criteria:

- Has your child been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
- Is your child experiencing a cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, or sore throat?
- Has your child had a fever in the last 48 hours?
- Has your child had a new loss in taste or smell?
- Has your child had muscle pain or chills?

Ideally, the at-home screening will be supplemented with the parent or guardian checking their child's temperature at home before sending them to school. However, it should also be noted that elevated temperatures are only seen in about 30% of COVID-19 cases in Kenosha County, and if someone is taking ibuprofen or acetaminophen (i.e., Advil, Motrin, Tylenol), their temperature may be normal even if they have a fever.

Our primary screening of teachers will involve recommending that they perform daily screening at home using the following criteria:

- Staff members should perform their own self-screening at home
- Staff members that work with immune compromised students will be screened daily

The bottom line for students or staff is that if you feel sick – please stay home.

Daily Screenings at School

We will be screening children once they arrive in the classroom by taking their temperature if they exhibit symptoms. Each grade level will be equipped with a no touch thermometer if needed. If students have symptoms they will be sent to the health room for further evaluation from the school nurse. If they continue to have symptoms they will be sent home from school.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

The school district will be taking additional measures to make sure all areas are cleaned frequently and appropriately using approved cleaning and disinfecting products. Our staff will follow CDC and Health Department guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting schools.

- Routine cleaning & disinfecting of high touch areas including but not limited to: desk/table tops, handrails, common door handles, restroom fixtures, etc.
- Use of Electrostatic Sprayer with a chlorine composite solution to sanitize high touch, hard surface areas
- Hand sanitizer will be placed in main entry vestibules and in every classroom
- Disinfectant cleaner will be available for teachers to use in the classroom throughout the day if necessary

Lastly, newly installed equipment allows for adjustable clean air intake to meet or exceed industry standards for air quality.

Facility Use

Outside groups will not be allowed to use the facility and evening activities will be canceled until further notice.

Communication Plan

In order for our community to stay up to date, please make sure your contact information (email, phone, address) is current with the main office.

- Regular updates will be sent via our school notification system including updates, changes in plans, or relevant information that has not yet been widely shared.
- Social Media - #wcsflight @wheatlandwarhawks
- We will utilize and post weekly updates and information regarding our plans.
- The website will be continually updated and will be a resource for learning options.
- We will notify staff and families if they have been exposed to a case of COVID-19 as quickly as possible. No personally identifiable information will be shared about students or staff.

School Closures

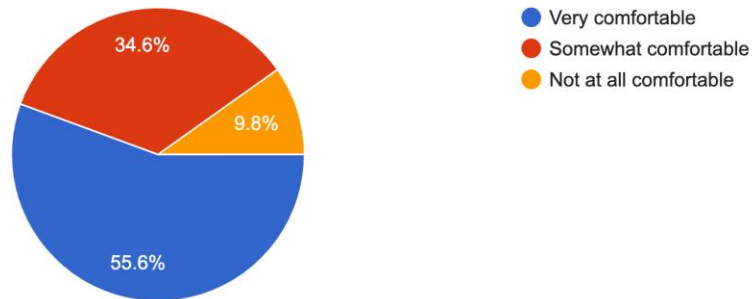
- School may have to be closed due to positive cases of COVID-19 in the school setting. The decision to close school will be in conjunction with the Kenosha County Health Department.
- The closure may be for single or multiple days depending on the extent of positive cases.
- If school is forced to close, students and staff will move directly into a virtual setting.
- The district and Kenosha County Health Department will determine the date to reopen.



Survey Results

How comfortable are you with your child physically returning to Wheatland Center School this fall?

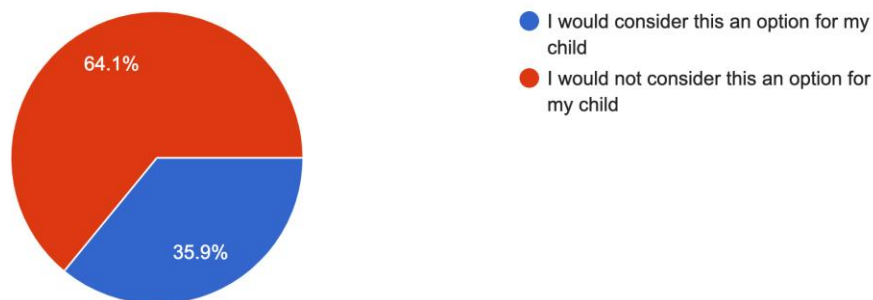
295 responses



Possible Scheduling Configurations

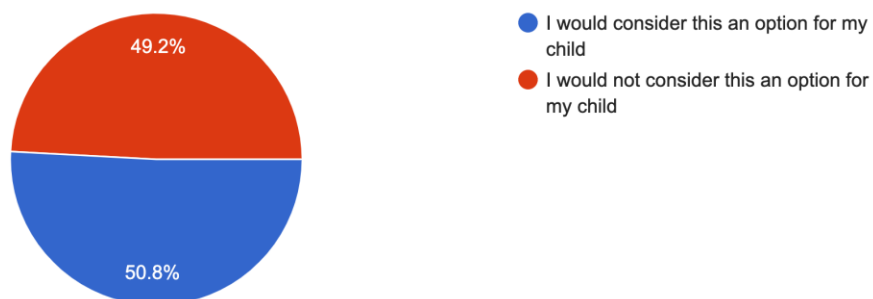
Completely virtual for all students (Allows maximum social distancing)

295 responses

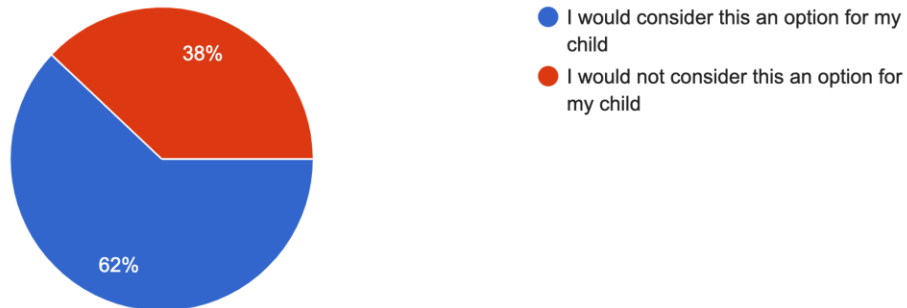


All students attend 2 days a week in person and virtually 3 days a week (Allows for multiple social distancing options)

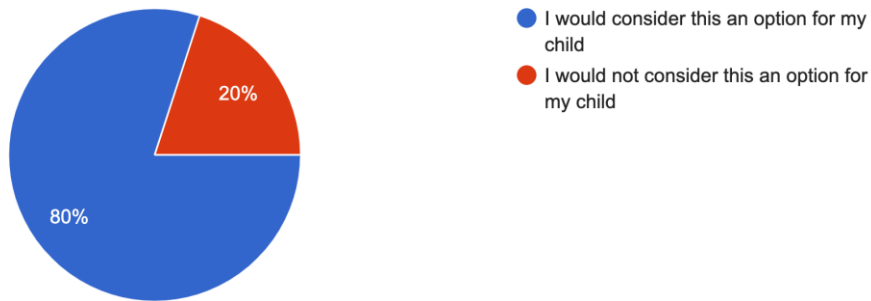
295 responses



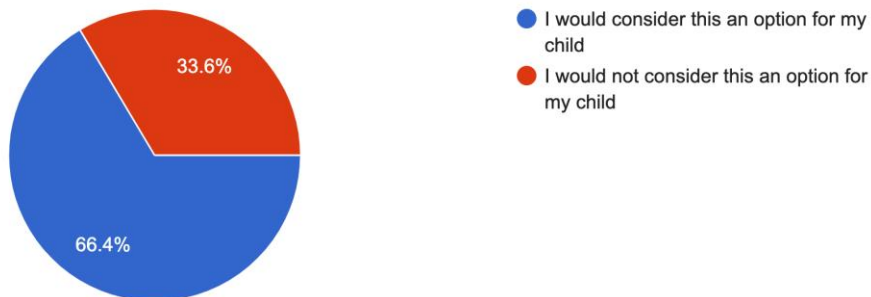
Elementary students (4k-4th) attend 4 days a week and are virtual one day a week. Middle school students (5th-8th) attend 2 days a week and are vir...ach day to allow for reasonable social distancing).
295 responses



All students return 5 days a week with a virtual option for families who do not want their child to return in person (Would only allow for reasonable social distancing if 25% of students attend virtually)
295 responses



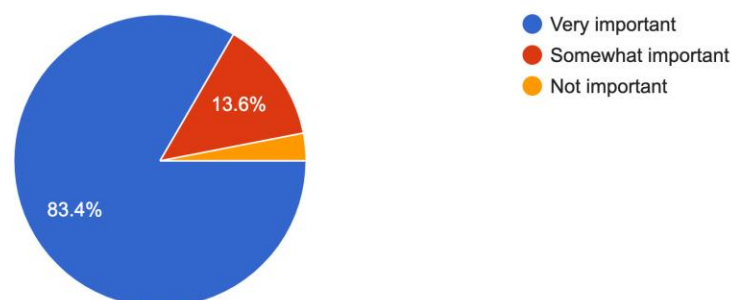
All students in school 5 days a week (Limited social distancing due to space)
295 responses



Importance of Health and Safety Precautions

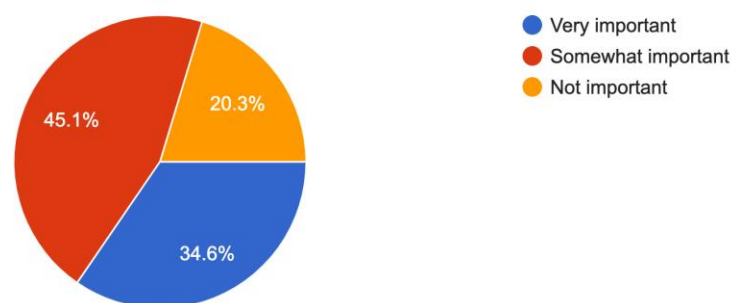
The school is thoroughly cleaned on a regular basis.

295 responses



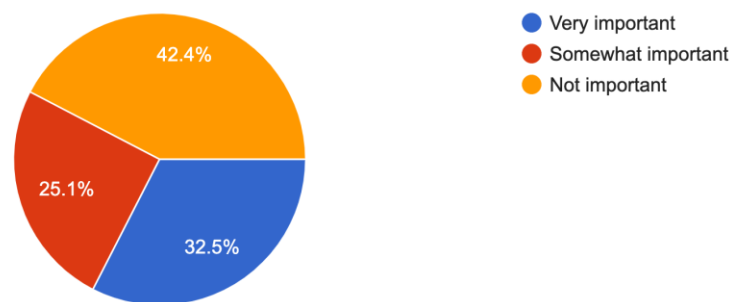
Students and staff maintain social distancing throughout the day.

295 responses



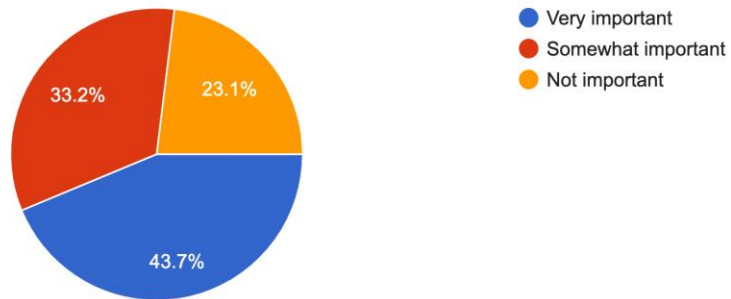
Students and staff are required to wear a face covering when they are unable to appropriately socially distance during the school day (exceptions would be made for extenuating circumstances).

295 responses



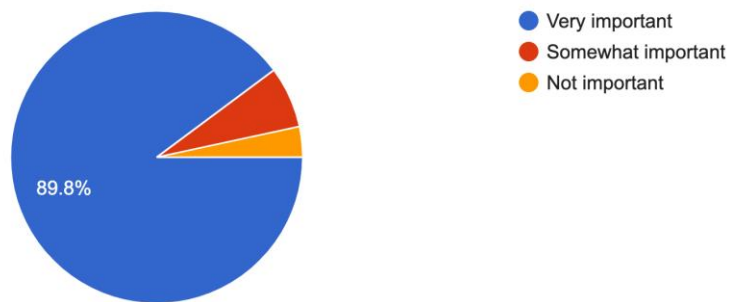
Student temperatures are checked before entering school each day.

295 responses



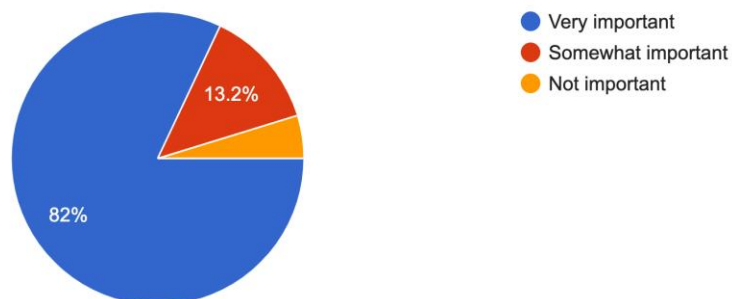
Students and staff regularly wash hands.

295 responses



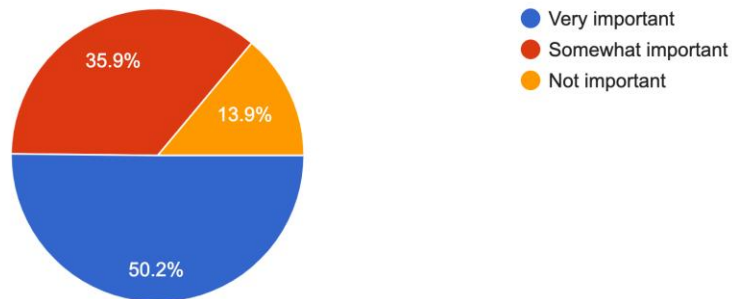
Hand sanitizer is provided throughout the building and is available for use.

295 responses



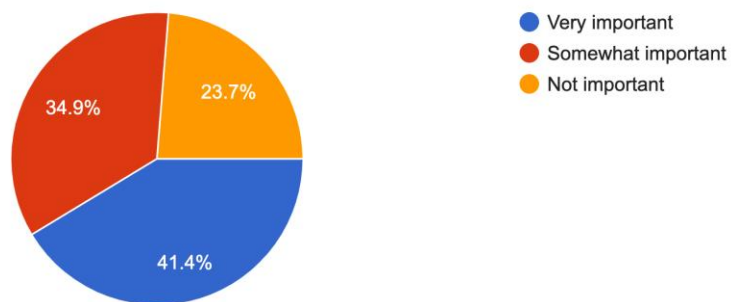
Access for visitors and volunteers is limited on the Wheatland campus.

295 responses



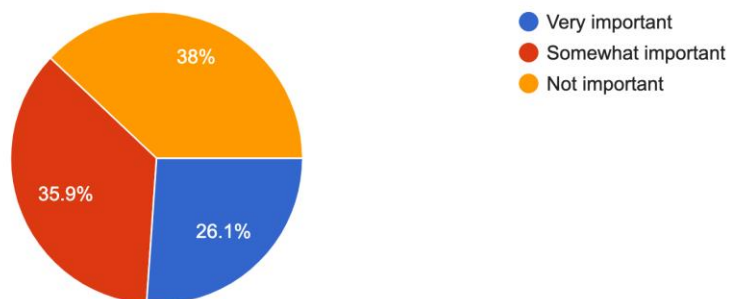
The number of students in each class is reduced to comply with state and federal guidelines.

295 responses



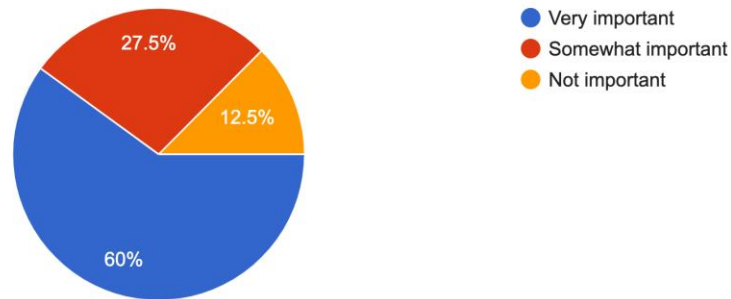
Students only interact with those in their assigned classes.

295 responses



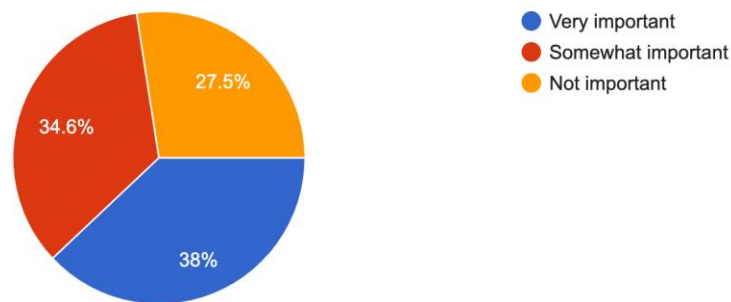
Materials shared between students are cleaned between each use.

295 responses



Students on school buses maintain social distancing to the extent possible.

295 responses



Assuming many of the above precautions will be in place, will you be sending your child to Wheatland in the fall?

295 responses

