

School Opening Plan for 2021-22 School Year

While the school district recognizes the pandemic remains ongoing, and is unlikely to fully abate before the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year; the district is hopeful that the restrictions on the learning environment will continue to ease when we return to begin a new year. The school district will continue to follow guidance and directives of health and state school officials, but we are preparing to return to school in the fall to as normal a learning environment as such guidance allows. In an effort to help prepare students, parents, and the school community the district has worked to put together the following outline of what we hope to provide at Westville Schools for the 2021-22 school year.

Instructional Delivery

- All Westville students will receive in-person instruction unless there is a medically documented reason that prohibits the student from attending in-person.
- Instructional delivery will resume to normal operating hours and class scheduling with traditional teaching and learning methods.

Safety Procedures

- Each school will be organized in a way to provide social distancing to the extent possible in classrooms and throughout school spaces. At the high school and junior high school students will be issued lockers.
- Special programming like media centers, libraries, and physical education will resume normal usage and activity.
- Outside visitors to the buildings will be limited to minimize unnecessary exposure.
- Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 must remain home for the appropriate quarantine period according to guidance. Students who are out for an extended amount of days will have their work provided according to the normal extended absence procedure at each school.

Transportation

- The district is committed to providing normal bus transportation to all students who are eligible to receive services. Transportation will be provided according to guidance and directives of health and state school officials for the 2021-22 school year.
- Daily temperature checks will no longer be conducted before entering the school bus.

Curriculum

- The curriculum for the 2021-22 school year will be provided in-person to all students using the normal teaching and learning measures in place before the pandemic. Students may still utilize technology when appropriate (as they did before the pandemic began), but students will not be using a digital curriculum.
- Only students who have a medically documented reason that prohibits the student from attending in-person instruction, will be provided a completely digital curriculum that will be managed and supported by a third-party the district will use to support, monitor, assess, and report student performance.
- Students will have an opportunity to participate in band and/or chorus using appropriate COVID safeguards as would be normally scheduled before the pandemic.
- Students will change clothes for PE at WHS and WJHS as normal before the pandemic.
- Back-to-school activities including opening night for Giacoma and orientation for seventh grade and freshmen students at WJHS and WHS will be conducted as normal before the pandemic.

Food Service

- The district will return to normal food service in the cafeterias at all schools.
- Students will be allowed to bring their lunch from home. Outside food will not be allowed to be delivered to students during the day.
- Students may not share food items with each other (which is the normal pre-pandemic expectation).

Technology Deployment

- Students and parents will be provided a learning device contingent on them agreeing to the terms of service for Chromebooks and iPads for the district.
- Students in seventh grade through twelfth grade will be provided an opportunity to eventually retain permanent possession of their Chromebook device as outlined in the district Chromebook policy.

Extra-Curricular

- Provided there is no disruption to the IESA and/or IHSA schedule, the district will resume normal extra-curricular activities
- The elementary school intramural programs will follow the guidance and protocols that mirror the IESA guidance for basketball and volleyball accordingly.
- Spectators at home events will be permitted to attend at capacity limits permitted by IDPH.

In conclusion, while it is possible guidance may change and adjustments may be necessary; a return to as much normalcy for teaching, learning, and school activities is at the heart of our district's desire when students return this fall. The patience, flexibility, and perseverance demonstrated by the students, parents, teachers, and school community has been extra-ordinary this year. We look forward to the 2021-22 school year with optimism and a renewed sense of enthusiasm.