



# Western Beaver County School District

---

343 Ridgemont Drive ■ Midland, Pennsylvania 15059 ■ 724/643-9310 ■ Fax 724/643-8048

Parents/Guardians:

It has been a challenging year and it is everyone's hope that we can have a positive return to school. Students return to our buildings on Tuesday, August 31, 2021. I know the entire district is excited to welcome our students back to school as we eagerly await their return. I want to personally thank you for your patience and ongoing support. The District Health and Safety Plan is available on our website and outlines the board approved return to school plan. I know it is all of our wishes to keep school open and available for all students to attend in-person. All students not enrolled in the District's On-Line Academy are expected to attend in-person instruction. The approved Health and Safety Plan designates that masks are currently optional (but encouraged) for students and staff. Based upon active COVID cases in our buildings, mandates from the state, or other COVID related issues this could be changed to require masking for all students and staff while in District buildings. Should it be necessary the District may amend the Health and Safety Plan at anytime.

Any updates to the Health and Safety Plan or need to transition our in-person learning to a virtual learning environment will be communicated with our families in a timely manner. Knowing that high case counts, lack of staff due to COVID related absences, and the PA Department of Health, working with the schools reported data could designate a school closure; families should have plans in place for students to learn in a virtual environment.

How can we all work together to maximize in-person learning:

1. Conduct a daily health monitoring assessment
  - a. No Symptoms – I am ok to report to school
  - b. I've been in close contact with someone who Tested Positive for COVID – immediately contact the school nurse – DO NOT report to school
    - i. There are different procedures for fully vaccinated individuals
  - c. I have a fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, sore throat, congestion or runny nose – immediately contact the school nurse – DO NOT report to school
  - d. If anyone in your household is currently awaiting a COVID test result – immediately contact the school nurse – DO NOT report to school
    - i. There are different procedures for fully vaccinated individuals
  - e. Is anyone in your household currently experiencing COVID symptoms – immediately contact the school nurse – DO NOT report to school
    - i. There are different procedures for fully vaccinated individuals
2. Contact the School Nurse if anyone in your household has tested positive for COVID-19
  - School Nurses are available by email or by telephone during regular school hours to answer any of your questions.
  - The District along with the School Nurse will follow the PA Department of Health and Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on all COVID-19 related matters

3. Other things to consider regarding masking and why masking is recommended
  - a. When masking – students who were within 3-6 feet of a positive COVID case – if both the positive COVID case and the exposed student correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time, the exposed student does NOT have to be excluded from school unless they become symptomatic
  - b. People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone with COVID unless they become symptomatic

The District will monitor current conditions and coordinate with the PA Department of Health. Again, if necessary the District will implement universal mask wearing as a mitigation strategy in an effort to consistently provide in-person instruction. Please understand, wearing no mask and having to be in a Virtual Learning Environment may be less desirable than wearing a mask and being in school every day. If universal masking is necessary, the District will provide appropriate and safe mask break opportunities throughout the day.

Again, thank you for your continued patience and support. I hope that through working together we can successfully engage in face-to-face instruction throughout the year.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Robert Postupac*

Dr. Robert Postupac  
Superintendent