Dear Westfall Families,

I know that you have been anxious to receive Westfall’s re-opening plan. I’ve been anxious to get it out to you but, because of constant changes in expectations from the Ohio governor, Ohio Department of Education, and the Health Department, planning has been very difficult.

While I know that we all have differing opinions, a public school has no option but to take the aforementioned agencies’ directions. Much of our re-opening plan is determined for us by the powers to be.

We have worked closely with other school districts and the Department of Health in coming up with a common re-opening plan for all Pickaway County Schools.

The plan for all county schools is as follows:

1) All Pickaway County schools are planning for a five-day-a-week start plan. In addition, an alternative plan, including virtual instruction, will be available.
   - a. If Pickaway County goes to a Level 3 or Level 4 alert level, adjustments will be made to the number of days per week and/or the site of where students will be instructed.
   - b. If further guidance and/or mandates are issued from the Ohio Department of Education or the Ohio Department of Health, these plans could be altered. Parents would be notified through the schools’ announcement methods.

2) All Pickaway County schools will work closely with Pickaway County Public Health in reacting to any positive cases in the districts’ buildings.
   - a. In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a school or a potentially positive COVID-19 case by the health department, it is important for families to know that the district will not be able to disclose any information regarding the affected individual(s) due to legal restrictions.
   - b. All communication regarding potentially exposed students and staff members and potential quarantine measures will come directly from the Pickaway County Health Department.

3) All Pickaway County schools are prepared for its curriculum to be implemented on-site and/or online.

4) All Pickaway County schools will do its best to maintain 6’ social distancing and will make parents aware of the efforts. In addition, all Pickaway County schools will make parents aware in some instances that 6’ social distancing is not possible.

5) All Pickaway County schools will require all employees to wear masks.
6) All Pickaway County schools will require students in grades 3-12 to wear masks when social distancing cannot be achieved. This is especially true in areas of high concentrations of students, such as when entering the building and in hallways.

7) All Pickaway County schools will inform parents of assessed risks and precautions being taken to address the risks.

8) All Pickaway County schools encourage daily temperature assessments at home before students come to the buildings. If the homes do not assess, alternative methods may be available on the school site.

While the Westfall plan will follow the Pickaway County Schools’ plan, I need to provide you some more information applying to Westfall.

Last spring, we were hit with an unexpected shutdown of the schools. While we did our best to continue to educate our students, we weren’t prepared to teach in that way. Several of the Pickaway County schools are starting classes one week later than planned to prepare to deliver the online curriculum effectively. A new calendar will soon be posted for our district with the starting date for students being August 26.

This fall, all of our classes will utilize a blended learning approach to teaching our students. This is a good thing! Blended learning is a balance of in-class and online education with the integration of technology in both platforms.

In other words, our teachers will teach their students in a manner that would easily translate to learning online, in case a family chooses to not send their children to school or if the state would shut us down again. In-class lessons will be delivered effectively, and that same lesson can be accessed from home along with teacher input. While students will not start school until August 26, our teachers will be at work beginning August 17. They will learn how to deliver instruction to our students during this challenging time very effectively.

Last spring, we had the challenge of too many of our students not having technology or internet access. To prepare for any challenges this year will bring, we are equipping each of our students with a Chromebook to have the necessary technology at home. Also, we have purchased mobile hotspots so students at home can access the internet if they are in need.

We will provide instruction in two ways.

- In-class instruction
- Online at home instruction

We intend to begin the year with all students in class five days per week. At that time, some parents will choose to keep their children at home. They can utilize the same lessons and instruction online. THIS IS HOW OUR DISTRICT WILL FUNCTION IF PICKAWAY COUNTY IS IDENTIFIED TO BE AT LEVEL ONE OR TWO.
If Pickaway County goes to or stays at LEVEL THREE, students would come to school on somewhat alternating days. Each student would be assigned to Group A, or Group B. Group A students could attend school on Monday and Tuesday. Group B students could attend on Wednesday and Thursday. Each group would alternate from week to week on Fridays. Students from the same family would be put in the same group.

If Pickaway County would go to LEVEL FOUR, all students would follow their lessons online at home.

I want to reiterate that the Pickaway County Plan mentions that masks for students would not be required once the students were at their desks.

I also want to mention that parents will be expected to check temperatures at home. We are exploring a method in which we can check many student temperatures in a short time as they come into the building.

One of our biggest challenges will be transportation for our students. Like most districts, students might be expected to sit two to a seat on the bus. Family members will be assigned to sit together. With younger students, it could be necessary to sit three to a seat at times. While not required, it will help us if you are able to transport your child to and from school.

I have chosen not to go into several “what-ifs” in this notice. Now that you have received this, I will post information on the district website and Facebook page. I know you will want to know more about how we will react to positive COVID-19 tests within our staff or students. We will keep in constant communication with the Pickaway County Health Department and follow their directions. They will establish who was exposed, who should be quarantined, and what steps will be taken.

You have questions. You have concerns. We all do as well. You will soon have the opportunity to express your concerns and ask questions as we send out a questionnaire to each family. I can assure you that it is our desire to provide the best for our students and to provide the safest environment that we can during this challenging time.

You will be hearing from me again soon with further information.

Respectfully yours,

Jeff Sheets
Superintendent
Westfall Local Schools
Safety Expectations at Westfall Local School District

Daily Self-Monitoring

A student’s well-check, including temperature, should be conducted at home on a daily basis before coming to school. Any student with a fever of 100 degrees or above should stay home.

Any student that has TWO OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS of COVID-19 should stay home from school and visit their primary care provider to be assessed:

- Fever of 100 degrees or above
- Persistent cough
- Shortness of breath
- Chills
- Muscle/Body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea

If a student develops COVID-19 symptoms while at school, they will be quarantined until the student’s parent/guardian arrives to pick them up. All exposed areas will be immediately cleared of all students, cleaned, and sanitized.

Student health and safety is our priority, if your child is sick or exhibits any signs on COVID-19, please keep them at home. Students will not be penalized for missing school and will have the opportunity to keep up with their work virtually will be counted as present.

Returning to School After Illness

Students that only have a fever of 100 degrees or above, show no other symptoms, and have not had any contact with an individual that has been positively diagnosed with COVID-19 may return to school after he/she has been symptom-free for 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

Students who experience TWO OR MORE SYMPTOMS must provide a doctor’s release in order to return to school.

A 14-day quarantine will be required of any student or staff member that tests positive for COVID-19.

Any student that falls into any of the above categories must be transported to school by parent/guardian and checked by the school nurse before being allowed to return to the classroom.
Safety Expectations at Westfall Local School District

**Entering the Building**

Staff and parents/guardians will be required to wear a face mask upon entering any of the school buildings.

Each school building will have basic masks available for students to wear, but students are welcome to wear an appropriate mask from home.

**Transportation**

Face masks are required for drivers and students while riding the bus.

Seating charts will be used on buses. Bus seating will allow students to sit two per seat with some cases if needed, younger/smaller children will sit three to a seat. Our district will attempt to place siblings in a seat together.

Bus drivers will sanitize all common areas/surfaces after transporting students.

**Classroom**

Common areas and surfaces will be cleaned and sanitized. Each classroom will be equipped with a hygiene and cleaning station.

Classrooms will follow social distancing guidelines with desks spaced out as much as possible.

Once seated at their desks, students in grades 3-12 are not required to wear their masks.

The recommended safety protocols will be implemented.

School supplies will not be shared between students.

**Food Service**

Common areas and food service lines will be sanitized after each group.

50% capacity of students in breakfast and lunch lines and social distancing will be in effect during consumption.
Safety Expectations at Westfall Local School District

Sanitation

Students will be instructed on proper handwashing, mask-wearing, and safety procedures at the start of the school year. Signs will be posted reminding staff and students of the procedures for good hygiene. Social distancing markers will be in place to help students in common areas. Classrooms will be equipped with hand sanitizing and cleaning stations and will be well-stocked with cleaning supplies.

Recess

Recess will be small groups only.

After recess, all students will report directly to a cleaning station and playground equipment will be sanitized between groups.

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<th>LEVEL 1</th>
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<td>0–1 Indicators Triggered</td>
<td>2–3 Indicators Triggered</td>
<td>4–5 Indicators Triggered</td>
<td>6–7 Indicators Triggered</td>
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- Public Emergency: Active exposure and spread. Follow all current health orders.
- Public Emergency: Very high exposure and spread. Limits activities as much as possible. Follow all current health orders.
- Public Emergency: Severe exposure and spread. Only leave home for supplies and services. Follow all current health orders.

**Schedule A**
All in school Monday-Friday

**Schedule B**
Split cohorts of students
- Group A: Mon. & Tues.
- Group B: Wed. & Thur.
- Alternating Groups on Friday

**Schedule C**
All students learn from home