



WCS Newsletter

September 25, 2020

Volume 1, Issue 4

Need help with Schoology?

All schools, beginning Sept. 8 will have a help desk open from 3:30-5:30 p.m. every weekday. Parents can call their school's main number to reach the help desk.

IMPORTANT LINKS

[Wood County Schools Website](#)

[Wood Schools Innovate](#)

[WV Dept of Ed Re-entry Map](#)

By the Numbers

During a recent meeting of the Wood County Board of Education, Superintendent Will Hosaflook and board members discussed some of the financial and logistical challenges facing Wood County Schools this year, not only due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but also because of the changing ways in which students are receiving instruction.

Among the numbers discussed:

- **1,850** – The number of Wood County Schools students enrolled in West Virginia virtual school. The number declined from an initial 2,400, some of which opted to return to traditional classes.
- **22** – The “clicks” it takes to sign one student up for virtual school.
- **117** – New support positions to help ensure the success of Wood County Schools students enrolled in virtual school. Though many of the jobs are part time, those teachers provided invaluable support services for students and families.
- **800** – The number of “wifi hotspots” distributed to students in areas without reliable internet access. Officials estimate the hotspots will allow about 902 families to continue remote learning.
- **2** – The number of people working full time to activate, distribute and track those wifi devices.
- **40** – The monthly cost of each hotspot. The school system is paying about \$32,000 a month for 10 months to provide the wifi hotspots this school year.
- **11,904** – The total enrollment for Wood County Schools, including virtual school students. Enrollment is down about 300 students this year.
- **10,000** – Roughly the amount of state funding received per student. Since those annual funds are based on enrollment numbers, a 300 student drop equates to a roughly \$3 million loss of funding.
- **16** – The number of teaching positions funded by \$1 million.

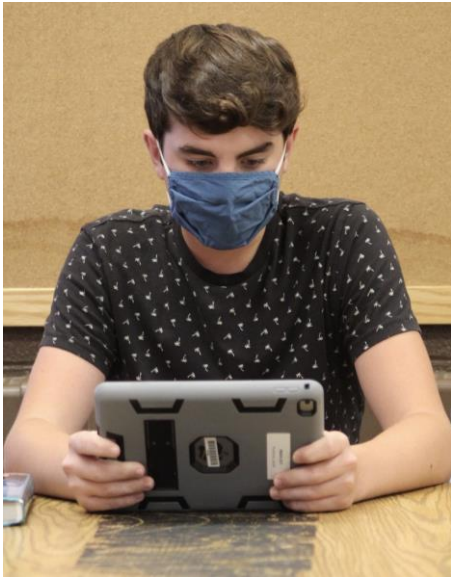
“Our vision is to work as a community to inspire a passion for learning, pursue excellence and empower students to reach their potential.”



A summary of Wood County Schools instruction levels can be found [here](#). The district's re-entry plan can be found [here](#), and a list of Frequently Asked Questions concerning COVID-19 precautions can be found [here](#).

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”

W.B. Yeats



Schoology Useful Links

- [WCS Innovate](#)
- [On Facebook](#)
- [On Twitter](#)
- [The TIS Team](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Schoology FAQ](#)

Stopping the Stoplight

Before the West Virginia COVID-19 mapping system was created, Wood County Schools developed a Stoplight System for its fall re-entry plan. The idea was to make it easy for parents and educators to know what kind of instruction would occur each week by using a green/yellow/red code.

But after the state system was unveiled with its own rainbow of colors and meanings, things got confusing. The Wood County system is independent of the state map, but uses many of the same colors and terms. To make it easier for everyone, Wood County Schools will now simply say the kind of instruction which will occur: In-person, blended or remote.

“In-person” is like regular schools with students attending classes at the school four (4) to five (5) days a week. COVID-19 precautions such as masks, social distancing and frequent handwashing and sanitizing of surfaces will still be in place.

“Blended” is when students attend on campus two (2) days per week and received off campus instruction three (3) days a week.

“Remote” means students are engaged in learning five (5) days a week off campus.



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Do you have feedback on the parent newsletter?

Any questions or suggestions can be emailed to the Wood County Schools Communications Department at merb@woodcountyschoolswv.net and all parents and community members are encouraged to download the Wood County Schools app for news and announcements from the district's Central Office.