



This communication supersedes all previous communication.

Previous communications are archived on the District's [COVID-19 Webpage](#).

Friday, August 14, 2020

Greetings, West York Area School District Community:

On Monday, we will welcome all of our faculty and staff back to our buildings as we continue to prepare for August 24th, the first day of school. We are fortunate to be able to offer a full week of professional development for our educators and allow them time to ready their classrooms for your children. They will be receiving training on not only instructional topics but topics related to Covid-19 as they relate to an educational setting.

Martin Luther King once wrote, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." We all know this school year will be like no other. Comfort and convenience is months away in either direction; this is the year of challenges. We will face known challenges and many challenges yet to be revealed. More than ever before, this community will need to put forward the most resilient, gritty, can-do attitude we have to offer. The students of West York are deserving of that and are counting on all of us to come together like never before. We want our students to come to school (or join their Cyber Academy classes) excited to learn and broaden their horizons, meet their teachers, see their old friends and make new friends, and feel safe and supported beginning on the first day.

I know it may seem like you are receiving a lot of communication from the District right now, and that is true. We want to make sure that we are keeping our families in the loop on how the beginning of the 2020-21 school year will unfold for each student. Please know that we anticipate more communication coming your way on a variety of topics. If you feel you are missing any information, please contact Cindi Greco in our Communications Office and she will make sure you get the information you need. You may email her, cmgreco@wyasd.org, or call 717-792-2796, ext 1150.

On Thursday, August 13th, we finally received clearer guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) regarding how schools should respond when students or staff demonstrate symptoms or test positive for Covid-19. That guidance can be found [here](#). We will follow this guidance until PDE changes it or updates it. If that happens, we will notify you and share a link to the updated guidance. There is also a brief recorded webinar included which can be found [here](#). To summarize this information, the Department of Health will be involved should any case come to West York. They will provide us with guidance on communicating with all those involved while also providing us with direction on closing classrooms or schools, due to an outbreak. They provided us with a [flowchart](#) to address the handling of a student or staff member demonstrating symptoms of Covid-19.

Since West York is a small and close-knit community, I believe many community members may hear about actual cases or possible cases through the grapevine and wonder why they were not contacted as perhaps other families had been. In an effort to address this, proactively, I strongly encourage everyone to read the [flowchart](#) and watch the above [webinar](#), as it may help understand the manner by which the Department of Health has directed us to address certain situations.

One important piece of information that we know is the CDC [definition](#) of “close contact” and what this means for us. It is defined as being within 6 feet or less of someone, masked or unmasked, for 15 minutes or more. We will be using this to guide our social-distancing within our classrooms and buildings.

Many of you are wondering how you will be notified if there is cause for concern regarding Covid-19 within our buildings. The following packet has information on our notification process. This information has been prepared using the guidelines set forth by the PA Department of Health and the CDC.

[Family Packet](#) / [Paquete Familiar en Español](#)

Transportation information is being processed and transferred from our Transfinder System into the Sapphire Portal. If you have any questions, please [email](#) the transportation department.

Important Reopening Dates

Monday, August 17, 2020

- All faculty and staff will return to our buildings for a full week of planning, preparation, and professional development.

Monday, August 24, 2020

- Kindergarten, 2nd, 4th, 6th, and all 9th Grade students will attend

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

- All students, K-8th Grade, will attend
- Students in grades 9-12 on the “A” schedule attend

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

- All students, K-8th Grade attend
- Students in grades 9-12 on the “B” schedule attend

Thursday, August 27, 2020

- All students, K-8th Grade attend
- Students in grades 9-12 on the “A” schedule attend

Friday, August 28, 2020

- All students, K-8th Grade attend
- Students in grades 9-12 on the “B” schedule attend

Monday, August 31, 2020

- Regular weekly schedule for K-8th Grade begins: M, T, Th, F, with a Distance Learning Wednesday
- Students in grades 9-12 will attend on the designated A/B schedule outlined by Principal Jones

Monday, September 7, 2020 - Labor Day Holiday, all buildings closed

As a reminder, to provide more time for students in our classrooms, many of the late starts, early dismissals, and professional learning days were moved to the Distance Learning Wednesday. You can access the revised calendar, [here](#).

Health and Safety Plan

At the July 28, 2020, Ad Hoc Committee meeting of the Board, updates to the Health and Safety Plan were approved. The updates reflected the latest guidance regarding mandatory face coverings, social distancing guidelines, and the changes to the number of days students will receive in-person instruction. The current Health and Safety Plan may be found [here](#). Please keep in mind that this is a fluid document and changes will be made as we receive new guidance from federal, state, and local agencies.

Cyber Academy

We have had an astounding response to the West York Cyber Academy option. To date, we have over 600 students representing all grade levels that chose to begin the year in our Cyber Academy. Even though the window for enrolling in our Cyber Academy to start the school year is now closed, other opportunities will be made available after the school year begins.

Flexible Instructional Days

As a reminder, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has approved West York School District's application to provide Flexible Instructional Days (FIDS) to our learners. This means that on days when weather or other emergencies might necessitate the closing of schools, we can now provide instruction to our students at home rather than in the classroom. While this may appear unnecessary, due to all the distance learning students have done and will be doing, the approved application was still needed to count weather/emergency closing days as student days. The District has been approved to use up to five (5) of these days this school year.

Since all West York students will have access to technology, a FID day will resemble a "Distance Learning Wednesday." Families can expect more information about the use of FID Days as the year progresses.

Upcoming Meetings

Due to the limit of 25 people in an indoor meeting, we are asking that the public pre-registers for any Board or Board Committee meetings that they would like to attend in person. Links to register and information may be found on our [website](#). In addition to allowing in-person meetings of no more than 25, we will continue to live stream and host Zoom webinars so that everyone may participate.

- On **Monday, August 17, 2020**, at 6:00 pm, we will hold a [Co-curricular Committee](#) Meeting. All are welcome to attend.
- On **Tuesday, August 18, 2020**, at 5:30 PM, we will hold a [PRIDE Committee](#) meeting to be followed by our monthly voting [Board Meeting](#) at 6:30 PM. All are welcome to attend.

Reminders

- **Activity Bus:** Due to the altered schedules in each of our schools, the after school Activity Bus option for middle and high school students will be postponed until further notice.
- **Building Office Hours:** As a reminder, our regular office hours in all buildings have resumed. If you need to see someone specific in any of our offices, it's advisable to call ahead for an appointment. **All employees and visitors must adhere to posted guidelines for Social Distancing to include wearing facemasks until further notice.**

- The weekly **Blue & White** is published at the end of each week and delivered via email. Past issues may be found [here](#).
- Please continue to look for communication and updates from the District through Blackboard, our [website](#), and social media ([Twitter Link](#) [Facebook Link](#)).

I'd like to thank the Board, Bulldog Community, and all of our District families for the ongoing support, feedback, suggestions, and patience over the past few months. I ask that you continue to support the District in the coming weeks and months as the start of the 2020-21 school year will be unlike anything we've experienced before. We're all in this together, and with your help, we will continue to focus on Every Student Every Day as we strive to ensure the best possible educational experience for all of our Bulldogs.

Sincerely,

Todd M. Davies
Superintendent of Schools