



This communication supersedes all previous communication.

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

Friday, November 20, 2020

Greetings, West York Area School District Community:

New School Director

I'm pleased to announce that at the Tuesday, November 17, 2020, Work Session meeting of the Board, the Directors voted to elect Ms. Vineeta Kushla to serve on the Board through the end of the December 2021 term. Ms. Kushla was one of five candidates who applied for the seat. We were fortunate to have such a rich pool of candidates apply, and I'd like to thank Ms. Tiffany Hunter, Mr. Alan Neff, Mr. Dave Kopp, and Mr. Joel Reidel for applying and participating in the election process. Ms. Kushla will take the official oath of office and begin serving her one-year term at the December 1, 2020, Reorganization Meeting of the Board.

High School 4-Day Schedule - Postponed until December 2, 2020

High School students and families should have received a communication earlier today about keeping next week's schedule status quo and not opening up to four days of instruction for all students. Since the Board Meeting in October, the high school administration, teachers, and staff have been planning to return to a four-day schedule that was supposed to begin on Monday, November 23, 2020. However, due to the increased number of cases at the high school, the high school will continue with the existing A/B schedule through Tuesday, November 24, 2020. This means that students should report to school on Monday, November 23rd as they have previously: Cohort "A" will report on Monday (11/23), and Cohort "B" will report on Tuesday (11/24). Next week is a shortened, two-day week due to the Thanksgiving Day Holiday.

All High School students should plan to report to school on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, to begin the four-day in-person schedule.

COVID-19 Updates

On Tuesday, November 17, 2020, Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADoH) Secretary Levine re-issued the Governor's Mask Order, as well as outlined new rules for those traveling into Pennsylvania, the details of which may be found through these links:

- [New Travel Guidance](#)
- [Updated Mask Order](#)
- [Masking FAQs](#)

I would ask that our families who choose to travel over the holiday break follow these requirements and think about how such travel may impact their children returning to school. I understand there may be families who have made arrangements for travel well before this new information, but we must comply with official orders from the PADoH. Per the New Travel Guidance, all Pennsylvanians who travel out of state must either be tested for COVID-19 or quarantine for 14

days upon return. Our interpretation of this order is that travelers must have a COVID-19 test within 72 hours of returning to Pennsylvania and may return to work upon receipt of a negative result. Students traveling outside of Pennsylvania should inform the schools and plan on quarantining for at least 14 days upon return or produce a negative Covid-19 test.

If you have any questions about either of these orders, please contact your child's building principal or Nurse Cindy Rose.

You'll see today's COVID-19 data for the District in the table below. We have also added a dashboard to the main page of our [website](#) that will update on a "live" basis as we update our internal data throughout the day.

Districtwide Current COVID-19 Data as of Friday, November 20, 2020, @ 2:00 PM	
Positive Cases	In Quarantine
11	189
Please know that these numbers can fluctuate from day-to-day and sometimes hour-by-hour as cases move in and out of quarantine and positive status.	

This past Monday I was notified by the Department of Education that York County moved from the "moderate" category to "substantial" regarding the rate of transmission for Covid 19. Based on the numbers that have been posted on the state website, I have every reason to believe we will be in the "substantial" category for the second week in a row beginning on Monday. If the positive cases in West York continue to climb at a similar rate as those in the county, we may need to pivot to a more virtual learning model, at least for the buildings most widely affected.

From the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, we have communicated that virtual learning is not for everyone and many of our students learn best when in the classroom. Our goal has always been to provide students and families with the option of in-person learning for as long as possible. However, with the rise of COVID-19 in the county and in our buildings, we all have to consider the possibility of West York moving to a 100% virtual learning environment. In light of this, I am asking all families to begin preparing for this possibility by having a contingency plan in place that might include childcare and informing employers.

As I conveyed in last week's communication, when it comes to mitigating the spread of COVID-19, the District can only control what happens within our buildings' walls, and we have been successful in our efforts. At this point, even though most of the transmission of COVID-19 is occurring outside of our facilities, positive cases involving our students and staff may still lead to a specific building closure.

The fact is, most of our families and students want and NEED the option of in-person learning. The best way to keep COVID-19 out of our schools and our buildings open to students is to practice healthy habits and encourage family members to do the same. Please continue to monitor symptoms and report them to our school nurses, along with any testing for COVID-19 and close contact with any positive cases. The symptom monitoring tool and nurse contact information can be found in the [Family Information Packet](#).

Keep in mind that if we do have to close a specific building or the entire District to mitigate the spread of Covid-19, we not only have to move classes to a virtual platform, but we must also cancel all co-curricular activities - this includes all athletics.

An Important Note About What Quarantine Means

The [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC) defines quarantine as:

Quarantine is used to keep someone *who might have been exposed to COVID-19* away from others. Quarantine helps prevent the spread of the disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department. You can find more COVID-19 resources on our [website](#).

For those who are quarantined, please understand that this means:

- No trips outside the home
- Separation from others, even in the home, to the extent possible
- No participation in sports or other activities - period.
- Following mitigation practices (masks, handwashing, etc) at all times
- Monitoring your health/health of children for symptoms as outlined in the graphic below

Important Information and Reminders:

Holiday Meals:

In collaboration with the Hunger-Free York program at the York County Food Bank, WYASD families who qualify (based on the number in household and weekly income of \$628 or less) may register for a free holiday meal box that will include a turkey and items to create your holiday meal. The deadline to register is Sunday, November 22, 2020. Pick up will be at the West York Middle School, Adams Street, Door# 10, on Thursday, December 17, 2020, from 3-6 PM. [Register here](#).

Upcoming Board Meetings

December 1, 2020 5:30 PM	Educational Programming Committee (EPC) Meeting
December 1, 2020 7:00 PM	Reorganization Meeting of the Board
December 1, 2020	Work Session Meeting (immediately following reorg)
December 8, 2020 5:00 PM	Budget & Finance Committee Meeting
December 8, 2020 6:30 PM	Board Meeting
December 14, 2020 5:30 PM	Co-curricular Committee Meeting
December 15, 2020 5:30 PM	PRIDE Committee Meeting
December 15, 2020 6:30 PM	Facilities Committee Meeting

All meetings are open to the public to attend in-person (limited capacity), via Zoom, and may be viewed via livestream on the District YouTube channel. More information may be found on our [website](#).

Inclement Weather Days

We are getting close to the time of year when we begin to anticipate inclement weather days. Because the pandemic forced us all to provide and receive instruction virtually, we can apply our Distance-learning platform to inclement weather days, just like our Wednesday Distance-learning Days. This is good news because we will not have to use snow/emergency make-up days.

Since Distance-learning days are handled differently at each building, be on the look-out for communication from your building's principal regarding how these days will look for your children. Also, since we can now use a distance learning option for weather events, we may limit or eliminate 2-hour delays.

For reference, the current 2020-21 District calendar may be found [here](#).

Student Meal Programs- Update

We have received notice from the USDA that they have extended the free breakfast and lunch program through June 30, 2021. This is terrific news for our families and means that **all breakfast and lunch meals across the District shall be provided, free of charge, to ALL students**. This includes pick-up meals for WY Cyber Academy students as well as meals for anyone 18 and under who reside in our District. Please follow your child's home building guidelines for ordering pick-up meals. At the secondary level, a second meal may be purchased at the regular meal rate. Menus for all buildings are posted on our website. More information may be found on our [website](#). Please contact Mr. Scott Rutkowski at scrutkowski@wyasd.org if you have any questions.

Spectators at Sporting Events

Please keep in mind that while spectators at District events are still limited, everyone may watch these events via live stream. Links to each live stream channel for District teams may be found [here](#).

Building Visitors

All visitors must complete a screening form and have their temperature taken at each building. They will be expected to adhere to posted guidelines for social distancing to include wearing facemasks until further notice.

The Blue & White

The Blue & White is published at the end of each week and delivered via email. Past issues may be found [here](#). Please continue to share your positive photos throughout the year - it's a bright spot for all of us! You can send them to cmgreco@wyasd.org.

Best wishes for a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Todd M. Davies
Superintendent of Schools