



This communication supersedes all previous communication.

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

Friday, August 21, 2020

Greetings, West York Area School District Community:

I hope this communication finds you and your families well and excited about the start of a new school year. There were times when I honestly wondered whether or not we would be opening our doors to our Bulldogs for the 2020-2021 school year, but here we are just days before the reopening of schools and I am so excited to share that our teachers, administrators, and staff are ready and looking forward to opening day! On Monday, August 24th, all students (both in-person and cyber) entering kindergarten, second grade, fourth grade, sixth grade, and ninth grade will attend a "transition day" ahead of the full opening for all grade-levels on Tuesday, August 25th.

Our administrators, faculty, and staff have been working hard this past week, and over the summer, in preparation for our students' first day and we can't wait to meet new students, check in on former students, and get on with everything that goes into having a successful school-year. It's been mentioned many times that this year will be unlike any other we've experienced. Because of this, I want to remind our families that we are all in this together and underscore our immediate priority of reconnecting with our students and families. Beginning on the first day, we will be taking the time that is needed to adjust to either in-person learning or distance learning through the West York Cyber Academy. For those experiencing continued difficulty with the adjustment into school, please reach out to your guidance counselor or building principal for information on other resources.

On Monday, August 17, 2020, we received information from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) informing us that the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADoH) **now requires that students wear face coverings at all times while in school, even when six feet of social distancing can be achieved.** There are limited exceptions. I am sure many of you have questions about this, and you may find some answers on their [FAQ's page](#) about this new directive. The bottom line is - if you plan on attending our brick and mortar classes, plan on wearing a face mask. Below are the only times masks are not required:

- Eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart
- When wearing a mask creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task
- At least 6 feet apart during "face-covering breaks" to last no longer than 10 minutes

For those riding the bus, please be prepared to use hand sanitizer (provided by the driver) prior to boarding and bring a mask. Face coverings must be worn at all times by all riders. The bus driver will also be wearing a face covering. 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.

You may be 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](#)

Important Reopening Dates

Monday, August 24, 2020

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

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

- All students, K-8th Grade, will attend in person
- Students in grades 9-12 on the "A" schedule attend in person
- Students in grades 9-12 on the "B" schedule will participate in distance learning

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

- All students, K-8th Grade attend in person
- Students in grades 9-12 on the "B" schedule attend in person
- Students in grades 9-12 on the "A" schedule will participate in distance learning

Thursday, August 27, 2020

- All students, K-8th Grade attend in person
- Students in grades 9-12 on the "A" schedule attend in person
- Students in grades 9-12 on the "B" schedule will participate in distance learning

Friday, August 28, 2020

- All students, K-8th Grade attend in person
- Students in grades 9-12 on the "B" schedule attend in person
- Students in grades 9-12 on the "A" schedule will participate in distance learning

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 August 18 2020, voting meeting of the Board, updates to the Health and Safety Plan were approved. The updates reflected the requirement for students to wear face coverings at all times, as mentioned above. 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. Those interested in attending the Cyber Academy should contact their building principal.

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. 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 **Tuesday, September 8, 2020**, at 7:00 pm, we will hold our monthly Work Session Meeting of the Board. All are welcome to attend. Immediately prior to the meeting, we will hold our monthly Educational Programming Committee meeting.
- On **Tuesday, September 15, 2020**, at 6:30 PM, we will hold our monthly voting Board. All are welcome to attend.

Links to register for both September meetings will be available on our [website](#) next week.

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](#)).

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.

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. Remember, 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