



# WASHINGTON

Community High School District 308

July 17, 2020

Dear WCHS Parents/Guardians,

As we approach the start of the 2020-21 school year, it is important that you receive information consistently as we make decisions. Last week, you should have received an email that included a high level overview of the schedule and registration information. This week, we are providing information about the safety procedures we are implementing to reduce risk when possible and meet required guidelines for public schools. ***After reviewing the following information, please take a moment to help us make the best decisions we can for your student by completing the survey linked below by Monday, July 20 at 3 p.m.***

## **Schedule**

As you recall, the tentative [schedule](#) will be attendance 5 days a week with approximately half of the population attending in the morning from 8-11 a.m. and the remaining half in the afternoon from 12-3 p.m. We are currently working to divide the students into morning and afternoon attendance based on geographic location. A remote learning option is under development, and we hope to share that with everyone next week. We will also be sharing more detail soon about class periods, zero hour, longer attendance for some students, and the in-person learning plan.

## **Safety Procedures to Minimize Health Risk**

Our goal is to minimize health risk by implementing key safety procedures that are included in the guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health. We will monitor procedures to identify continuous improvement opportunities.

**Face coverings** - At this time, the guidance states that all students, faculty/staff, and visitors will be required to wear a face covering at all times in school building even when social distancing is maintained. We will be providing additional information that outlines the requirements for wearing face coverings, and the district will be enforcing these rules.

**Symptom Screening** - Students and faculty/staff will be asked to complete symptom screening through a self-reporting method and will be asked to show their status before entering a bus or building. Staff members will also randomly select students for temperature checks upon entering a bus or building. It is very important that students who are exhibiting symptoms remain home until they can be evaluated by a certified health professional. Symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, etc. Please reference the full list of symptoms provided by the CDC.

**Social Distancing** - The morning/afternoon schedule will result in approximately half of the student population in attendance during each session. Fewer students on campus will maximize opportunities to social distance in classrooms, common areas, passing periods, restrooms, and buses. Students will also report directly to their first hour or homeroom to avoid gathering in common areas.

**Passing Periods** - Students will be asked to move through the halls and staircases single file while staying to the right. This method will help students move through the building quickly and minimize the amount of time they spend transitioning to their next class. Students will not be assigned lockers located in the hallways or locker rooms to further decrease the time spent in common areas.

**Cleaning** - The district will be increasing the cleaning schedule for frequently touched surfaces such as door knobs, stair rails, bathrooms, bottle fillers, etc. In addition to routine cleaning while students are present, the hour between the morning and afternoon session will allow time to perform additional cleaning tasks. As an added precaution, each classroom will have supplies available for students to disinfect their workspace prior to class starting. Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms.

**Air circulation** - The facility has heating, ventilation, and air conditioning units that incorporate 15% outside air each time the system runs. Windows may also be opened throughout the building to provide additional air flow when necessary.

**Addressing Suspected/Confirmed COVID-19 Cases** - The guidance for how schools should address suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 has not been finalized by the Illinois Department of Public Health. Proposed guidance indicates that a key element in the process will be parent/guardian involvement in reporting their student's suspected or confirmed case to the school. After the district is aware of a positive case, the Tazewell County Health Department (TCHD) will be notified and contact tracing will begin. The district will follow TCHD guidelines by appropriately communicating with parents, students, and staff while maintaining the confidentiality of students and staff. The communication would include information about symptom monitoring, what to do if symptoms develop, COVID-19 prevention strategies, and what the school is doing in response to the event.

## SURVEY

Keeping in mind everything you have learned about our tentative schedule and safety procedures, we would like your feedback by completing the [Return to School Survey](#) by **Monday, July 20 at 3 p.m.**

Please continue to watch your email during the weeks leading up to the first day of school. We will be releasing information about topics such as the remote learning option, schedules, transportation, in-person learning/curriculum, freshmen kick-off, extracurricular activities, and other topics.

We sincerely appreciate your patience as we continue to make the best decisions we can to serve your student and the community.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kyle W. Freeman  
Superintendent of Schools  
Washington CHSD #308  
(309) 444-3167



## 2020-21 Return to School Safety Procedures

Our goal is to minimize health risk by implementing key safety procedures that are included in the guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health. We will continue to monitor procedures to identify continuous improvement opportunities and may add to this list if necessary. It is our expectation that students, faculty/staff, or any visitors follow the safety procedures required.

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