

West Branch Local School District

August 6, 2020

Reset & Restart Plan

Opening the West Branch Local School District for the 2020 - 2021 School Year

Board Adopted - 8/6/2020



Introduction

As we move closer to the start of the 2020-2021 school year, we recognize that students, parents, staff and community members want to begin with as much normalcy as possible.

While we welcome the return of the our school systems reset and restart on September 9th, we know that a “normal” return is not possible and that information contained in this document may not be popular with everyone affected.

It is our sincere desire to provide safe educational opportunities for students. The only way this can be accomplished is by safely adhering to established guidelines and by working together to insure success.

2020 -2021 School Year Starting Point

As of 8/6/2020, the intent of the WBLSD is to be in session 5 days a week with students and staff practicing social distancing.

Protocols as prescribed by the Centers for Disease Control(CDC) as well as the county and state health departments will be followed.

Disclaimer - This plan is subject to change based on community or building/classroom level spread and/or directives from the local/state health department or executive order(Governor's Office).

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Guiding Principles

It is the goal of the WBLSD to open schools for the 2020 - 2021 school year. The status level of the WBLSD will be determined at the discretion of the Superintendent in consultation with local and state health officials, guidance from the Ohio Department of Education, the office of the Governor, and the WBLSD Board of Education.

All planning in this reset/restart plan is designed with the goal of protecting the safety and welfare of our students, staff and community. Guidance provided by local/state health officials, Centers for Disease Control, and Ohio Department of Education or other consulting agencies has been used in continued preparation for opening. While it is our goal to minimize risk and spread of COVID-19, the risk cannot be eliminated.

Using the district's mission and vision, it is our goal to support student and staff academic, social, emotional and physical needs. If your child cannot attend school due to health concerns, please contact your building principal for educational options by August 20, 2020.

It is our hope that students, parents, staff and community understand that our plans need to be flexible and ask for continued patience and understanding through our intended reopening.

This presentation does not fully encompass the guidance and regulations given to school districts in the state of Ohio. If you have specific questions, not addressed please contact your building principal or Superintendent Timothy Saxton.

WBLSD Plan Options

The following slides represent the potential status of the district, school or classroom as we proceed through school year.

Green Status indicates the In-Person Learning for students in PS - 12

Yellow Status indicates a hybrid model for students in the district.

Red Status indicates a Remote Learning model for students in a particular building or district.

As of Thursday August 6th, 2020 - the WBLSD is "GREEN."

Status Level Green

In Person Learning -

All students expected to attend school.

Physical/Social Distancing maximized in all educational spaces.

Increased Health & Safety Protocols / Mitigation practices.

Facial Coverings required for grades 3 - 12.

Facial Coverings encouraged for grades PS - 2.

Facial Coverings required for faculty and staff.

Status Level Yellow

50 % In-Person Attendance / 50% Remote Learning.

Alternating days in grades 5 - 12.

Full Attendance - Grades PS - 4.

Physical/Social Distancing maximized in all educational spaces.

Increased Health & Safety Protocols / Mitigation practices.

Facial Coverings required for grades 3 - 12.

Facial Coverings encouraged for grades PS - 2.

Facial Coverings required for faculty and staff.

Status Level Red:

Remote Learning - All students at home.

Red Status could result from an Executive Order, Ohio Department of Health, Mahoning or Columbiana County Department of Health or as determined by the Superintendent.

Food Service Distribution would be available for students.

Students would engage in remote learning during normal school hours according to their assigned class schedule, unless otherwise excused.

All staff members would be expected to report to school during their normal work hours unless otherwise determined by the Superintendent.

Delivery of Instruction and Educational Options

Warrior Academy - If a student is unable to attend school due to health related concerns or special circumstances, the district is providing an online curriculum option for families.

Selection of Warrior Academy must take place by 8/20/2020.

Enrollment in Warrior Academy does not replicate the full learning experience of in-person instruction. Please consider all factors in making this decision.

It is expected that students who enroll in Warrior Academy will remain online for at least one semester.

To learn more about Warrior Academy, you can visit: [Warrior Academy - Information](#)

Technology

If the district needs to move to Yellow or Red - Students in grades K-12 will have access to district provided technology if needed.

The district is prepared to offer mobile hotspots on an as needed basis for connectivity.

Google Classroom will be the preferred method of instruction.

Health and Safety Protocols

General Health & Safety Strategies:

The district will work with local and state health officials and maintain communication with all agencies.

All students and staff will adhere to physical and social distancing guidelines.

Daily cleaning and disinfecting protocols for high touch areas and surfaces.

Provide health and safety education/training to student and staff.

Post signage in all buildings reinforcing social distancing and good hygiene.

Hand sanitizing stations will be available in each classroom and common areas.

As practical, large grouping of students will be avoided.

As practical, outdoor learning spaces will be utilized.

Health and Safety Protocols

The following items have been ordered or are in process to provide a healthy educational environment for students, staff, and community.

- Hand sanitizer stations to be distributed to in every classroom, high traffic areas and extracurricular venues.
- EPA/FDA approved cleaning and disinfecting products effective in killing COVID-19 and other viruses.
- Face Shields for Staff (Donated by Ventra Salem, LLC.).
- Facemasks for Staff are required.
- Non-Touch infrared scanning thermometers will screen all faculty, staff, and students upon entry.
- Gloves for Staff and students as needed.
- Social distancing barriers where applicable.
- Signage for safety reminders for staff and students.

Health and Safety Protocols

To create a healthy and safe learning environment the WBLSD will need to address the following concerns:

Safety Protocols - Enhanced Cleaning Practices During Each School Day

Prior to the start of the school day:

All commonly touched items will be disinfected with cleaning agents approved to kill COVID-19.
All hand sanitizer and soap dispensers will be checked and prepared for daily use.
Buses will be cleaned in preparation for morning routes.

During the school day:

Desks and commonly touched items will be cleaned and/or eliminated.
Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms and refilled as needed.
Buses will be cleaned in preparation for the afternoon routes.

At the end of the school day:

Deep cleaning of all schools/classrooms will be completed on a daily basis.
Areas used for athletics/extracurricular activities will also be cleaned after usage.

Health and Safety Protocols

General Safety Strategies and Good Hygiene

The West Branch Local School District expects that parents send students to school each day that are symptom free and healthy. If your child is ill, please keep them at home. If they exhibit the following symptoms, we ask that they remain at home until symptom free.

- Temperature of 100.4 or greater to be taken prior to leaving home
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Sore Throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Rash
- Nausea
- Diarrhea
- Muscle Pain
- Congestion or Runny Nose

Note - If your student has diagnosed allergies, asthma or other chronic health conditions that would exhibit COVID-like symptoms, we encourage you to discuss this matter with your physician for any needed recommendations to return and attend school.

Health and Safety Protocols

Students will participate in daily temperature screenings upon arrival at school.

Faculty and Staff members will participate in daily screenings prior to coming to work and upon arrival.

Faculty and staff should evaluate symptoms (if present) and temperature before leaving for school/work.

Students or staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or that have a temperature of 100.4 will be isolated and then sent home.

Health and Safety Protocols

Guidelines for Face Coverings

The CDC and Ohio Department of Health provide comprehensive guidance for the use of face coverings to help slow the spread of COVID-19. As such, we are implementing our Face Covering or Masking Policy as highlighted below.

All staff/adults are required to wear a face covering unless meeting the criteria for exemption.

All students are expected to wear face coverings in grades PK - 12. Families must provide the student with his/her own face covering on a daily basis.

Any student in grades PK - 12 who intend on riding school transportation will be required to wear a face covering.

Students will be given “mask breaks” as determined by guidelines and safety protocols.

The order can be found here: [Directors Order - Masks K-12](#)

Health and Safety Protocols

Cafeteria/Food Service

Physical/social distancing will be adhered to during lunch times.
Hand washing or sanitizing will be required before and after lunch.

Transportation

Parents are encouraged to transport their children to and from school when possible.
All students riding the bus will be required to wear a facial covering and be assigned seats. Siblings will sit together.
Drivers will wear facial coverings.

If parents will be utilizing district transportation, we need to know by Wednesday August 12th. Please follow the link here and on our district website to complete the Learning Option & Transportation Survey/Commitment Form.

[2020 - 2021 Learning & Transportation Survey](#)

Health and Safety Protocols

Recess

Students will be allowed to participate in recess at appropriate grade levels. Social/Physical distancing guidelines will be adhered to at all times.

Extracurricular Activities/Athletics

The West Branch Local School District is working with the Ohio High School Athletic Association, Eastern Buckeye Conference, and other local health agencies to provide a safe environment for select activities. More information will be available in the next few weeks.

Health and Safety Protocols

Water Fountains

Water fountains will not be accessible. Students will be able to utilize their own water bottle and refill at no-touch water filling stations.

Lockers

We highly encourage students to carry their own supplies throughout the school day. Lockers will be assigned in the grade levels where available. Utilization of lockers will be allowed with strict physical/social distancing guidelines.

Signage

Signage encouraging our faculty, staff, and students to follow CDC and Ohio Department of Health guidelines on handwashing, facial coverings, physical distancing, and hand sanitizing will be placed throughout the district.

Response to Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

In collaboration with the Mahoning County Health Department, Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Education, the school district has developed plans and procedures to address several scenarios. These guidelines are fluid and are likely to change as we receive more information and work our way through the school year. Please be patient and flexible.

EXHIBITING COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

If a student or staff member presents with symptoms consistent with COVID-19, the individual will be sent home and presumed to have COVID until such time as a healthcare provider determines the illness is caused by something else and provides a note.

Without a healthcare or provider's note, the individual would need to stay home for 14 calendar days and be fever-free for 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

Response to Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

CONTACT TRACING

West Branch Local Schools will immediately contact the Mahoning County Board of Health upon learning of a positive COVID-19 case among the student body or staff. The Ohio Department of Health will lead contact tracing and case investigation in consultation with the Mahoning County Board of Health.

SCHOOL/BUILDING CLOSURE

Decisions on whether part of a school or an entire school will need to close will be made in consultation with the Mahoning County Health Department as part of the contact tracing and case investigation. These decisions will depend on how the students were grouped and movements of the ill individual. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), schools MAY need to close for two to five days, but the case investigation will ultimately determine the most appropriate actions. In the event that part of a building or entire building is closed for any length of time, the students and staff will be utilizing a remote learning model.

Adapt & Adjust

All plans are subject to change based on evolving conditions, data from the status of the pandemic, and recommendations and guidance from public health authorities.

We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time.

Additional Questions can be addressed by each building principal or by contacting the Superintendent's office.

This information will be updated as needed leading up to the official start of school on September 9th...

Resources

[ODE - Reset & Restart Guide](#)

[K - 12 Health & Prevention Guidance](#)

[CDC School Guidance](#)

[Mahoning County Department of Health](#)

[Ohio Department of Health](#)