

Westhampton Beach Elementary School

Continuity of Learning Plan for Reopening 2020-2021

Introduction

Westhampton Beach Elementary School is committed to providing an inclusive and engaging learning environment for all students, whether in person or remotely. Students learn best when they are in school but due to the uncertainties of the virus we have created two models that we will be able to seamlessly transition between. Following health and safety protocols as well as directives and guidance from New York State Education Department (NYSED), schooling may have to function under one of two models:

1. Full In-Person
2. Full Remote Learning

Full In-Person Learning Model

All students will return to school in person everyday and follow the normal elementary school daily schedule. School will start at 8:30 a.m. and end at 3:05 p.m., with staggered arrival and dismissal if deemed necessary. There will be strict sanitizing protocols and students and staff are required to wear masks throughout the school day with built in mask breaks.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Student Arrival and Transportation

Transportation will be provided to all students with consistency and equity. Alternative modes of transportation (riding bikes, walking, parent drop off) will be encouraged to reduce the number of students requiring bus services. Students will be expected to come to school wearing a mask. No student will be permitted to go to class without obtaining one from the main office or greeter.

Students may arrive via bus, parent drop off, walk or bicycle.

- The District will ensure the following as it relates to transportation: regular school bus disinfection measures will be performed; students and school bus staff will receive training regarding social distancing on the bus, at stops, and at unloading times; and the proper training of students and staff regarding the wearing of masks.
- Both students and drivers will wear masks and social distance on the bus.
- The buses will arrive at the front of the elementary school and students will enter through the main lobby and walk directly to their classroom. Students will be required to wear masks on the bus and maintain social distance.

(Siblings will sit together) Students will maintain social distancing when dismissed from the bus and when entering the building.

- The parent drop off, walkers and bikers arrival location for K-2 will be on the east side (Oneck Lane). Grades 3-5 drop off will be located on the west side (Parking Lot near the Gym on Mill Road). For families who have mixed grade level children (K-2 and 3-5) drop off will be at the K-2 location. No child is allowed to be dropped off prior to 8:20 a.m. Students will go directly to their classroom and not be held in the hallways. Students will maintain social distancing when entering the building.
- There will be a total of three entry points into the building to limit the amount of contact between students.

Late Arrivals

Students who arrive late to school must be signed in at the front door. Please make every effort to have your child arrive at school on time.

Early Dismissal

Please make every effort to schedule doctor appointments or events after school hours. In the event that an early dismissal is necessary, please notify the school in advance through a note or phone call. For health and safety purposes, parents will not be permitted to enter the school. Your child will be escorted to you at the front of the school for dismissal.

Student Dismissal

- The buses will pick up students in the front of the elementary school. Students will be required to wear masks on the bus and maintain social distance. (Siblings will sit together)
- The parent pick up, walkers and bikers arrival location for K-2 will be on the east side (Oneck Lane). Grades 3-5 pick up will be located on the west side (Parking Lot near Gym on Mill Road). For families who have mixed grade level children (K-2 and 3-5) drop off will be at the K-2 location.
- There will be multiple exit points out of the building to limit the amount of contact between students.

Health and Safety Screening

The Westhampton Beach School District will require all parents/guardians to screen their children before sending them to school. Parents/guardians will be instructed that any student with a fever of 100.0 F or higher and/or symptoms of possible COVID-19 virus infection should not be present in school. If families are unable to conduct the health screening at home, the screening will be completed at school in a confidential manner by trained personnel using a contactless thermometer and appropriate personal protective equipment.

Classroom and Hallway Procedures

In the classroom, students will be maintained in a cohort throughout the entire day, while also remaining 6 ft physically distanced at all times. A cohort consists of a full class of students.

- There will be visuals and markings on the floor to reinforce social distancing and manage the flow of students in the classroom and hallways.
- Class size will be determined by the square footage of the classroom to ensure every student is 6 ft apart.
- All desks will face in the same direction, and windows and doors will be open to improve ventilation.
- There are sinks and hygiene supplies in each classroom, along with visual aids to instruct on proper hand and respiratory hygiene.
- Students will wear face cloth coverings at all times, except during mask breaks and meals. Mask breaks will be a minimum of every 30 minutes for a 2 minute duration and when deemed appropriate by the teacher.
- Students will utilize an individualized storage crate for their belongings in grades K-3. In grades 4-5, students will utilize a double desk for their belongings.
- Every student will maintain individual kits of “high touch” supplies such as scissors, markers, pencils, erasers, etc. to avoid sharing of supplies between students. These supplies will also be taken home daily and used in the event of remote learning.
- Individual technology (K-2 iPads and 3-5 laptop) will be taken home daily in the event that remote learning is necessary.
- Students will not share any classroom materials and only disposable passes will be utilized.

Special Areas

Westhampton Beach Elementary School is committed to a well rounded education that includes the Arts, Movement and Music. Students will continue to receive special area classes.

- Special area teachers (Art, Music, STEM, Library, Spanish, Health, FLES) will go to individual classrooms versus rotating all students through a shared space.
- Physical Education classes will be held in the gym or outdoors when weather permits while maintaining 12 ft of social distance.
- Due to health and safety restrictions, Chorus and Band will be on pause for the 2020-21 school year.
- Instrumental lessons will continue while maintaining a 12 ft social distance for students in grades 4-5.

Student Meals & Recess

Breakfast

- Westhampton Beach Elementary School will continue to offer breakfast to all students. Breakfast will be delivered and served in individual classrooms.
- Students will remove their mask while eating but must put their mask back on as soon as they are finished.

Lunch

- Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria utilizing all available space, including the stage.
- Seating will be designated with a visual marker to indicate 6 ft distancing (2 students per table).
- Time will be built in for students to wash their hands before and after meals.
- “Order-A-Head” software will be utilized for students to order their lunch, thus addressing the needs of students with food allergies and dietary issues.
- All students will have access to “Grab-N-Go” meals each day.
- Students will remove their mask while eating but must put their mask back on as soon as they are finished.

Recess

- Students will stay with their cohorts during recess in their designated areas.
- Weather permitting, students will utilize recess stations (fields and playground) that will be rotated weekly.
- Every effort will be made for recess to be outside. Please dress your child appropriately.
- Indoor recess will be in individual classrooms and students will remain in their cohorts.

Restroom Use

All restrooms will be cleaned and sanitized throughout the school day.

- Many classrooms have a single bathroom for students to use individually.
- The classrooms that do not have individualized bathrooms will stagger the use of restrooms for students on an as needed basis for social distancing. Stalls, urinals and sinks will be marked for use to maintain social distancing
- There will be floor markings to maintain social distancing as part of the bathroom protocol.
- There will be visual aids to instruct on proper hand and respiratory hygiene in every bathroom.
- Students must wear a face mask when using the restroom.

We Care

Westhampton Beach Elementary School will continue to offer before care (7:15 a.m - 8:30 a.m) and after care (3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.) to enrolled students.

- We Care will take place in the cafeteria where students will be socially distanced 6 ft apart.

- Siblings may sit together.
- Registration for We Care will be online.
- For health and safety purposes, parents will not be permitted to enter the school. Upon arrival, parents will call the We Care number and your child will be escorted to you at the front of the school.

Management of Ill Persons

Students or staff with symptoms of illness will be immediately sent to the health office. Westhampton Beach Elementary School will have two designated health rooms for school health personnel.

- There will be one room for healthy students who have injuries or need their medications or nursing treatments.
- There will be a second room for assessing and caring for ill students and staff.
- Both rooms will be supervised by an adult and will have easy access to a bathroom and sink with hand hygiene supplies.
- School nurses and other school health professionals assessing or providing care to ill students and staff should follow transmission- based precautions which includes the use of appropriate PPE.
- Parents will be contacted if students are suspected of having COVID-19.
- While awaiting transport home the student will be isolated in a room or area separate from others, with a supervising adult present utilizing appropriate PPE.
- The Westhampton Beach School District will follow Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance for allowing a student or a staff member to return to school after exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

Mental Health Team

This team will include the Principal, Assistant Principal, School Psychologist, School Social Worker and School Nurse. The Mental Health Team will meet regularly to monitor attendance and the social emotional well-being of our students. A website of social emotional resources has been created and is available to parents.

RTI/AIS Intervention

The RTI Team will monitor assessment data and determine which students are in need of academic intervention services in accordance with the Department's guidance and plan. RTI/AIS services will be provided to identified students following the Health and Safety protocols of physically distancing 6 ft. and remaining in cohorts.

Other Considerations

- While students will be cohorted together during the day, there will be opportunities for them to take movement breaks in outside designated areas around the school.
- Student assemblies, performances and school-wide parent meetings will be limited to virtual only.
- All field trips will be transitioned to virtual opportunities.
- Virtual considerations will be made for before and after school clubs and activities.

Cleaning and Disinfection

The Westhampton Beach School District is following the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance for cleaning and disinfecting schools.

- Normal, routine cleaning will be enhanced using Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved disinfectants.
- High touch surfaces (tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, and phones) as well as restrooms will be cleaned frequently throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizing stations have been added in common spaces and classrooms where soap and water are not available.
- Logs will be maintained and will include the date, time, and scope of cleaning/disinfecting for each area in the facility.

School Closures

The Westhampton Beach School District will collaborate with the Suffolk County Health Department to determine the parameters, conditions or metrics (e.g., increased absenteeism or increased illness in the school community) that will serve as early warning signs that positive COVID-19 cases may be increasing beyond an acceptable level. Decisions about school closures will be made in conjunction with the Suffolk County Health Department.

Transition Between In-Person and Remote

As we navigate through these uncertain times, there may be a need to transition from one plan to another. Our goal is to make this transition as smooth as possible for families, faculty and staff. If a change from one model to another needs to take place you will be notified through the established communication protocols.

- All students will have a 1:1 device, whether remotely or in person.
- Every K-2 student has their own iPad and will utilize Seesaw as their platform for assignments, feedback and tracking progress.
- Every 3-5 student has their own laptop and will utilize Google Classroom as their platform for assignments, feedback and tracking progress.

- Every student will be issued a remote learning bag on the first day of school that will include an individualized white board, expo markers, pencils, folder and a notebook.
- Students in grades 1-5 will receive individualized consumable workbooks for Math, Science, and Social Studies to go home daily.

Full Remote Learning Model

If the direction from the Governor or Health Department's office is that schools must move to a full remote learning model, the district will provide intentional instruction through remote learning. Learning from our experience with remote learning at the end of last year and with the feedback we received from the parent/community surveys this model will look different.

The Westhampton Beach Elementary School will utilize a school-wide website for morning announcements, communication, resources, and to share student work with the broader school community. Weekly special events and activities will be accessed remotely through this website.

The school-wide schedule for remote learning is as follows:

8:30 a.m - 9:00 a.m: School-wide morning announcements, attendance and SEL

9:00 a.m - 11:00 a.m: Core Classroom Live Instruction through Google Meets
(Snack and breaks built-in)

11:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m: Schoolwide Lunch and Recess

12:00 p.m - 2:30 p.m: Schoolwide Special Area Live Instruction through Google Meets (Each grade will have two 30 minute specials and one 30 minute grade level social gathering daily)

2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m: Live Student Support Time with core classroom teacher through Google Meets