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West Side School District COVID-19 Guidelines for 2020 - 2021

West Side School District Vision:

The vision for West Side School District is to graduate all students with the knowledge, skills and attributes necessary for success beyond high school.

West Side School District Mission:

The mission for West Side School District in cooperation with our community is to provide a rigorous, relevant and viable curriculum, engaging instruction, and enabling technology in a safe and secure environment with a high-relationship culture to make our vision a reality.

Introduction

In keeping with the district mission West Side will follow the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) guidelines and the Arkansas Ready for Learning report issued by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for reopening school in the 2020-21 school year.

The intent of these Frequently Asked Questions is to help answer many of the concerns parents, students, and patrons have about what school may look like come August. The district's goal is always to provide a rich educational experience as safely as possible. The educational experience this year will include opportunities for social interaction and extracurricular activities while adhering to guidance and directives provided by the ADH.

The guidelines described here may change as necessary for the safety of students and staff. When properly followed, these guidelines will make for a healthier campus by reducing the risk of viral and bacterial transmission, and, as a result will help to keep students in the classroom longer.

If you have additional questions after reviewing this document please submit them [here](#) or contact superintendent Andy Chisum at the district office at 501-825-6258 or andy.chisum@westsideeagles.org.

**When is the first day for students?**

School will begin on Monday, August 24 as indicated from the governor's latest message. This date could change if ADH sends updated guidance related to the start date of school, but that is not anticipated to happen. The 2020-21 district calendar will be amended in the near future to accommodate this recent change to the school start date.

Who will be required to wear face coverings?

Wearing a face covering is now required by ADH, and for the two months prior, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and ADH recommended all individuals 10 years old and over wear a face covering. Students in grades 5-12 will be required to wear face coverings during transition times and when physical distancing is not feasible, although some students may be exempt from wearing a mask by an individualized medical or educational plan. Face coverings will be strongly recommended any time they are not required. Students in grades P-4 have the option to wear face coverings

Do we need to provide face coverings for our child or will one be provided?

The district will provide 3 washable cloth face coverings for each student. Because the face coverings are intended to last the school year, students are expected to take care of them. The face coverings should be changed and washed regularly at home.

Will bus transportation be provided?

Yes, the district will provide bus transportation for all students. Based on current ADH guidance, bus drivers and students in grades 5-12 will be required to wear face coverings when riding the bus. When possible, bus drivers will arrange students 6 feet apart allowing siblings in a household to sit together. The district plans minimal changes to bus schedules and stops, but changes will be contingent upon which students opt for bus transportation. Parents are encouraged to transport students if possible to limit interaction on buses.

How normal will the day be for a student?

A goal to have as normal of a day as possible while remaining as healthy as possible. Students will likely not remain in the same classroom all day but will transition from one class to another. Of course, sanitation will take place before a new group of students enters a space, especially the cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

Will students at the elementary still have extra classes like PE, art, music, guidance and library?

Yes, students will continue to participate in activity classes, check out library books, and receive guidance and gifted instruction. In some cases, the teacher may present the lesson in the classroom to reduce the amount of cleaning necessary. In other situations, such as PE, students may have an assigned area in the gym with specific materials assigned to them.



Will elementary students still have recess?

Yes. Elementary students will have physical activity time with restrictions that limit the number of students they could contact. Additionally, playground equipment will be sanitized regularly.

Will physical distancing guidelines be observed?

Physical distancing will be observed as much as feasibly possible but at times students will be closer than the recommended 6 feet apart. When physical distancing requirements cannot be maintained such as during class changes, etc., students will be required to wear face coverings. Classrooms and cafeteria spaces will be redesigned to increase the distance between students but may not always allow for 6 feet. Regardless of the area, when a distance of 6 feet cannot be maintained, students will be required to wear face coverings with the exception of the cafeteria while eating.

Will classrooms be arranged differently to protect students?

Yes, classrooms will be arranged to provide more space between students. That might mean all desks are arranged in rows facing in a single direction. It might result in reading areas with bean bags, couches or comfy chairs being removed. It might include dividers between students who are seated at a table. The district will make every effort to provide distance but not limit students' ability to interact and communicate with others in their classroom. Additionally, supplies and materials will be shared by students on a very limited basis.

Will students attend school every day or will there be some type of alternative schedule?

Students should plan to attend school daily following a schedule very similar to the traditional school day. Details will be released soon concerning an occasional "digital day" during the traditional calendar. The "digital days" are intended to help "on-campus" students be prepared for what will almost certainly happen this year — a school closure due to inclement weather or sickness. During such a closure, academic instruction will continue and "campus" students will become "online" students for the time the campus is closed.

If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, what will happen?

When an individual tests positive, the district will contact the ADH and follow guidance. This could result in a brief closure to allow additional cleaning and sanitation.

Will students and adults be screened daily?

Parents should screen each child daily for cough and fever prior to sending them to campus. The district will provide a link to the daily screening questions prior to the start of school. As an additional safety measure, the district will check each student's temperature with non-contact thermometers before the student is allowed to access populated areas of the campus. Students with a temperature of 100.4 degrees F will be separated from others while awaiting pickup from a parent.



If I don't want my student to return to a traditional classroom, what are my options?

The District is now registering students for the newly created online educational program known as Lake Town Academy. Lake Town Academy students will receive instruction, complete assignments, and take almost all exams at home. On specific dates to be scheduled, students will attend campus for periodic assessments taken by all students to measure academic progress. Additionally, grade 7-12 students will be required to take semester exams on campus. The schedule for those exams will be released as soon as it is finalized. The sign-up deadline for Lake Town Academy is Friday, July 31.

If a student chooses Lake Town Academy, will he or she be able to participate in extracurricular activities?

Yes, to the fullest extent possible. Athletic handbook guidelines must be followed by athletes. Also, applicable student handbook rules apply to all students involved in extracurricular activities, which includes Lake Town Academy students.

Will WSES and WSHS have an Open House?

Face-to-face Open House, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 20, will be limited to students new to the district as well as Pre-K students, kindergarten students, and 7th grade students. Modifications for a virtual Open House will be made if needed.

Will students be able to participate in extracurricular activities and sports in the fall?

Yes, that is the plan. Of course if a directive is pushed down to districts indicating otherwise, then the district will comply. Some athletes returned to campus June 1 to begin modified practices/workouts. Other sports activities will resume in the fall with possible modifications from the Arkansas Activities Association as required by ADH.

Will students eat lunch in the cafeteria and have access to water fountains?

Currently, the ADH recommends limiting the capacity of the cafeteria. This may require an adjustment to breakfast or lunch schedules or dictate the use of alternative areas, such as large gathering spaces. There is a possibility that, at times, students may eat meals in their classrooms. Proper sanitation of all areas will be completed after each meal. Students will not be allowed to pick up utensils, self-serve, or share food. As in past years, breakfast and lunch are provided at no cost to the student since West Side SD is a CEP school. Parents are encouraged to send a clear water bottle with children since traditional water fountains may not be available. Some water fountains on campus have already been equipped with touchless bottle filling stations and there are plans to increase that number.

What special precautions will be implemented in regard to cleaning and sanitizing?

Sanitation and cleanliness will be a high priority. The district will be adjusting custodial staff schedules in order to clean high-touch surfaces (door knobs, light switches, etc.) and restrooms



on a continuous basis throughout the day. Disinfectant sprays will be used to quickly sanitize rooms between groups. Students will also be provided time for hand washing and sanitizing. Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms as well as in high-traffic areas. Students will be asked to sanitize their hands as they enter a new space. Additionally, a Clorox 360 electromagnetic sprayer will be used throughout campus on a regular basis.

If a student comes to school sick, what will happen?

Students who appear to be sick will be directed to the school nurse for evaluation. Students with a temperature over the ADH guidance will be sent home and must be fever free without medication for 48 hours before returning. Students may also be sent home or directed for further medical evaluation if presenting with viral symptoms. Students returning to school will be screened prior to entering populated areas.

How will you help fill any gaps my student has from the previous year?

Academic teams are working now to revise the curriculum plans so that missed or partially covered essential learning standards are immediately addressed when students return. Additionally, student assessments will determine the needs of individual students. These assessments will help determine which students need additional support. (At the secondary level, missed skills from a previous course will be embedded in the next course in the sequence. For example, a student who completed geometry in the spring will have geometry skills embedded in the Algebra II course.)

What happens if we have school closures again?

A plan for at-home digital learning is being developed with the expectation that school will close due to bad weather or the spread of sickness, in the community or school. In the plan, students in grades pre-K through 6 and grades 7-12 use Google Classroom as the Learning Management System (LMS). As with previous years, many grade 9-12 students are registered in classes provided by Virtual Arkansas, and those students use its LMS, Canvas. Teachers will utilize Zoom or Google Meet to deliver live instruction. Students will learn how to use them by participating in lessons throughout the week while at school. Blended learning that includes both on-site traditional instruction and digital instruction will likely become the norm. We plan to schedule periodic “digital days” in order to help familiarize students with the continuous process of instructional delivery, whether at home or at school. This will allow all students, regardless of the reason for an absence, to continue their education when they are not physically present in the classroom.

Will students have the same arrival and dismissal times?

Depending on guidance from ADH, arrival and dismissal times may be adjusted in order to increase physical distancing and to decrease the number of students in designated areas before school starts. If changes are made those changes will be communicated.



How will I be notified when there are changes at school?

As in the past, the school uses automated voice phone calls, website posts, text messages, and social media channels to communicate with parents. It is essential for the school to be notified of any changes to phone number and postal and email addresses.

What advice do you have for students with special needs (autism, asthma, panic attacks, anxiety, etc.) or students with weakened immune systems and pre-existing conditions?

The district will be prepared to accommodate students with special needs through both onsite and offsite instruction. Special Education instructors will be taking extra precautions when working with students. Parents who have concerns about high-risk children may explore the virtual learning option, which allows the student to continue education at home.

In the event of a temporary school closure, how will the district serve students who have special needs (Special Education, 504, Dyslexia, etc)?

In the event of a school closure, the District will pivot to digital delivery of instruction so that students can participate in live instruction with scheduled Zoom or Google Meet sessions.

How do I sign up for the Lake Town Academy?

Parents who want the online option will be asked to register students for Lake Town Academy for a minimum of one semester by clicking the link below or completing a paper form at school. An early commitment will help the district prepare, but parents may complete the registration as late as Friday, July 31.

What do I do if I do NOT want online education for my child?

All returning students will automatically be enrolled in the traditional on-site learning.

Click [here](#) for information and a paper application to Lake Town Academy (At home virtual learning)

Click [here](#) to apply online to Lake Town Academy