



## **Wellston City Schools 2020-2021 School Year Frequently Asked Questions**

Wellston City Schools would like to thank everyone for your questions regarding the start of the 2020-2021 school year. All questions have been very thoughtful and have helped us work through the barriers families are facing. **Highlighted questions are a work in progress and we appreciate your patience.** The document will be updated as more information becomes available or more questions are asked. If you have additional questions, please submit them to the following link: [WCS Back to School Questions](#).

### **What is the first day of school for students?**

- The first day for students is Monday, August 24, 2020.

### **Will the students have access to devices if a family decides to sign up for the virtual/online option?**

- Wellston City Schools will be issuing a Chromebook to ALL students for the 2020-2021 school year.

### **My child(ren) is signed up for the virtual/online option, is there anything additional that needs to be done?**

- If you completed the online application for virtual learning, there is nothing else that needs to be done at this time.

### **Will the staff be available for students of parents with full time jobs that are different from normal school hours?**

- Stay tuned, as more information will be forthcoming as we are working on the protocols and staffing.

### **Will the virtual learning be just like being in class with teachers? Will they have a set schedule when they need to log on and do the class work? Can they work ahead with assignments?**

- At Wellston Middle School & Wellston High School, we will be using APEX Learning. These are self-paced courses.
  - Students choosing to opt into the virtual option will **not** be in the classroom via Zoom or Google Meet.
  - The WMS/WHs virtual learning experience will be completed using a digital curriculum provided by APEX Learning which is a student-paced experience with an end goal in mind allowing for retesting, per district policy, and unit test out in some subjects. The curriculum is standards-based and scaffolds and supports students through various options such as; interactive activities, animated explanations, read aloud for all content including assessments, and linked resources. APEX courses will be supervised by Wellston City Schools employees which will serve as a point of contact for questions, resetting of assignments, real-time tracking of performance, and general support.
- For Bundy Elementary and Wellston Intermediate, we are still finalizing what the virtual option will entail.
- If the county risk level warrants a blended model (orange), or all/most students are instructed virtually on a county level red or purple, teachers will lead the virtual learning through Google Classroom/Meets. If, however, families opt for virtual learning rather than in-house options available, instruction will be self-paced through the APEX learning system (not teacher directed).



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- Stay tuned, as more information will be forthcoming as we are working on the protocols and staffing.

### **If a child participates in virtual learning are they able to participate in extra curricula activities?**

- Yes, a student opting for virtual/online learning will have the opportunity to participate in all extra-curricular activities.

### **Will virtual/online learning look different than last spring?**

- Virtual/remote learning will look very different from last spring. As you know, WCS was thrown into online learning overnight. WCS Admin and Teachers did an amazing job making it work.
- See the previous question regarding the virtual/online option.
- At the beginning of the year, staff are participating in professional development on virtual/remote learning. The Future Ready Team in addition to additional staff members have been busy preparing for what instruction looks like in an online classroom.

### **If the virtual learning is not working, can the students come back to classroom learning?**

- If the virtual learning option does not work for a student, they may return at the end of the quarter for Bundy, WIS and WMS. WHS students may return at the end of the semester. If there are extenuating circumstances, you will need to work with the building principal.

### **What if our family decides to opt for the virtual/online option, but we don't have reliable internet?**

- One option may be to provide students with flash drives in such situations to assist-with opportunities throughout the week the download materials. We are currently exploring this possibility.
- WCS is currently working on this. Stay tuned...

### **If our family decides to opt for the virtual/online option OR if the district would move to Orange, Red or Purple that requires remote learning, will my child (especially at the lower grades) be penalized for not completing assignments until a caregiver gets home after the end of the normal school day?**

- No. However it is important to stay in contact with the teachers and the principals so that they are aware that your child will need to complete assignments outside of the normal school day. The important piece is that any assignments are completed by the due date established.



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What is the difference between blended/hybrid learning and remote learning?

Hybrid/Blended Learning Model	Remote Learning
<p><b>Definition:</b> Students spend a designated amount of time receiving face-to-face instruction (F2F or synchronous) and a designated amount of time receiving/practicing instruction remotely(asynchronous) using digital resources or learning packets. <b>(Level 2 - Orange)</b></p> <p><i>Example:</i></p> <p><b>Group A</b> <u>would be at school in Monday &amp; Tuesday, then be online (remote) on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.</u></p> <p><b>Group B</b> <u>would be at online on Monday, Tuesday &amp; Wednesday, then be at school on Thursday &amp; Friday.</u></p>	<p><b>Definition:</b> Families formally opt-out of face-to-face (F2) instruction OR the district is on <b>Level 3 (Red)</b> or <b>Level 4 (Purple)</b>.</p> <p>Students <u>learn 100% remotely using digital resources or learning packets.</u></p>

How are in-person substitute teachers going to be handled? How will they be handled for virtual learning?

- All substitutes will follow the guidelines established by the district. We will be providing training for our substitutes.
- If a substitute teacher is assigned as a Long Term Substitute, then the substitute teacher is responsible for the assigned class(es) should the district have to move to hybrid/blending learning or remote learning.

Will WCS students be required to wear a mask? Will staff be required to wear a mask or shield?

- **All teachers and staff** will wear face masks while inside all buildings. When isolated in the classroom without students, masks do not have to be worn.
- **K-2 Students** will wear masks on the buses, in hallways (arrival, dismissal, class transitions), common areas and in the classrooms with scheduled breaks. In the classroom, plexiglass dividers will be at student desks/tables.
- **Grades 3-5 Students** will wear masks on the buses, in hallways, in the classrooms with breaks scheduled when being outside is practical or mask breaks when using 3-sided desk shields in classrooms.
- **Grades 6-12 Students** will wear masks on buses and while inside the building or classroom.
- **Exceptions** to the Mask Policy include the following: child with a medical reason; children who cannot remove it without assistance; children with a severe behavioral or psychological issue undergoing treatment that is exacerbated specifically by wearing a mask; a child with severe autism; and a child with a facial deformity.

Will WCS provide masks for students?

- Yes, we will be providing masks for students upon request.

*"Wellston City Schools achieving excellence for ALL learners"*

*August 4, 2020*



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### **Can my child wear a mask that I have purchased or made?**

- Yes, we will allow students to wear masks or neck gaiters provided by the family. ALL facial coverings must be school appropriate. It is important to note that if a family is providing facial coverings, it is the family's responsibility to ensure the masks are clean. If they are not clean, the mask will be placed into a plastic bag or sack and the student will be issued a disposable mask.

### **What if I refuse to allow my child to wear a mask?**

- We will evaluate this on a case-by-case basis. There must be a documented medical reason as to why a student can not wear a facial covering.

### **Will hand sanitizer be available?**

- Every classroom will be equipped with hand sanitizer.

### **What will classrooms look like?**

- While this is not a simple question as classrooms vary depending on the building, subject area and grade level, here are a few examples of the barriers the district is using to protect the health and safety of students and staff. **Pictures forthcoming.**

### **Will my child change classes?**

- Bundy Elementary will be self-contained for the 2020-2021 school year. However, Wellston Intermediate School, Wellston Middle School and Wellston High School will be changing classes. Facial coverings are required in the hallway during transition.

### **Will school supplies be shared?**

- School supplies will NOT be shared during the 2020-2021 school year.

### **Will my child have recess? If so, what will it look like?**

- Students will have recess as it is important for them to be active. Protocols will be in place at each building.

### **Will my child eat lunch in the cafeteria?**

- Breakfast will be eaten in the classroom at all buildings. Each building will develop its own lunch plan in order to meet the capabilities and needs of the students.

### **Will there be transportation provided?**

- Transportation will be available for all students. Facial coverings are required and will be provided by the bus drivers if a student is without. Anyone not wearing or accepting a facial covering will not be allowed to ride the bus.

### **Will there be WRAP in the morning and afternoon?**



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- WCS hopes that there will be morning and afternoon WRAP. As soon as we have more information, this will be updated.

### **Will there be Open Houses, Orientation, and Meet the Team?**

- At this time, Freshman Orientation and all Open House Nights are cancelled. Wellston Middle School is working on the possibility of a Virtual Open House. More information forthcoming.

### **What happens if there is a positive COVID-19 test?**

- If there is a positive COVID-19 test, we will work with the Jackson County Health Department and follow the protocols in our plan.