

Western Reopening Q&A

V7.20.20

Transportation

1. If I choose to send my kids back to school and they cannot ride the bus due to being out-of-district can, I switch to online learning?

Our goal is to be able to transport all students that need transportation. If you decide to go with online learning that would be an option for your student.

2. Are out of district students going to be able to ride the bus if they were previously on a bus?

Our goal is to transport all students that need transportation to and from school. As students register, we will have a better idea of how many students will be on each route and how many seats will be available.

3. What alternatives are there for situations where no parents are home to get a child on the bus?

Those alternatives would be a personal choice for each family. Some people choose their home as their bus stop while others choose a child care or relative as their bus stop. Not all pick-up and drop-off options are available door to door.

4. If we are allowed to ride one bus to and from school, how do we know if the bus will be the same for our 2 locations?

The bus stop locations will depend on location and number of students. If the locations are in similar areas geographically, there is a chance it could be the same bus. If it is on opposite sides of our school boundary, it is unlikely that it will be the same bus. In our updated plan, we are allowing parents to pick one location for pick-up and a different location, if needed, for drop-off.

5. Can students ride more than one bus to and from school?

Currently, we are trying to limit the number of student exposures while transporting as many students as possible. Therefore, using multiple buses for pick-up and drop-off is not an option. In our updated plan, we are allowing parents to pick one location for pick-up and a different location, if needed, for drop-off.

6. Will I be allowed to register my kid to ride a bus and still provide private transportation if needed? Meaning can I drop him off in the morning and have him ride the bus home?

Yes, you may have the student utilize both bus transportation and parent transportation.

7. How will pick up work with the buildings, will the primary and intermediate be separated?

We will be utilizing a program called PikMyKid. This program will be utilized for safe and efficient pick-up. More information will be provided to register for this program.

8. Can a child be picked up at one location in the morning and dropped off at a different location in the evening?

We are assessing this option to see if it would be a possibility. Much of this will depend on students utilizing bus services. We are trying to limit student exposure and would lose a seat on another bus as we would not be able to assign that seat to another student. In our updated plan, we are allowing parents to pick one location for pick-up and a different location, if needed, for drop-off.

9. Can my child ride the bus and get a parking pass to drive to school on occasions?
Yes, you may utilize both the bus service and drive to school.
10. Can my child ride with other friends in their car to or from school?
This would be your own personal choice.
11. Will students be required to wear a mask before getting on the bus or dropped off at school?
Yes, students will be required to wear a mask on the bus and during times social distancing is not possible. This would include entering the building and hallways at drop-off and dismissal.
12. What will happen if a student is getting on the bus or dropped off at school and they do not have a mask for the day? Will the student be permitted to get on the bus?
Students are required to wear a mask on the bus. We will have masks available for them to use on a limited basis if they do not have their mask for that day.
13. How are you handling bussing to daycares (Crossroads etc.)?
We have been in communication with daycares and each situation is unique in regards to in-district vs. out-of-district students, the number of students, the number of days or mornings vs. afternoons the day care is utilized. Our intent is to try to make the necessary accommodations that are needed but we are still monitoring the number of students who will be riding the buses.
14. When will there be more details in regards to the changes for parent pick up at the end of the day?
We will be utilizing the program PikMyKid. More information on how to register will be coming soon.
15. Is there a link to register for the seat assignments on the bus? Or how do parents do that?
We will assign buses as students register. There will be more information that will follow your registration as we will know who is on campus or who chooses a virtual option.

Remote Learning

1. Does e-learning have to be chosen upon registration, or can children go back and forth between e-learning and physical school?
Students will need to make the choice at registration. Students will be allowed to make one election change a year (exceptions may be made for medical reasons) with administrative approval. Students can request to move from the remote/distance learning option to the on campus/traditional setting only at the end of the semester. Students can request to move from the on campus/traditional setting to the remote/distance learning option at any time.
2. Is it possible to start the year off doing remote learning and then possibly getting him into the classroom further into the year if COVID-19 seems to be declining? If we decide to

try to send the student to in person classes and find that it is really uncomfortable for them will we be allowed to pull them and do virtual or will we have to wait till the end of the semester?

Students can request to move from the remote/distance learning option to the on campus/traditional setting only at the end of the semester. Students can request to move from the on campus/traditional setting to the remote/distance learning option at any time.

3. Will the remote curriculum be the same as what is being taught at western? Will it be the same concept as elearning but just more added to it?

Since the reopening document was released on July 9, 2020, we have received additional questions regarding the time-requirements of our remote/distance learning option, and some concerns with having to follow the regular school hours in the remote/distance learning setting. Taking the comments and concerns in to consideration, we developed the table below to try to cover and communicate each possible need, especially knowing that some parents may want remote/distance learning because of work schedules and child care during our regular school hours. The paragraphs in italics are from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE).

As a result of the recent shifts to virtual, online, or remote learning options, and predictive increases in mobility in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, IDOE recognized the potential for miscommunication regarding expectations around instructional time and attendance requirements. This [document](#) aims to clearly translate legal requirements and general expectations for instructional programming and obligations related to reporting attendance across instructional environments for the 2020-2021 school year.

Options	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Learning Option	Traditional On Campus	Remote – Follow Modified Traditional Schedule	Remote – eLearning Format	Remote – Online through Edmentum or other online programs
Grade Level	K-12	K-5 6-12 (based on student course selection and teacher availability)	K-5	6-12

Level of Support	Most Support	Mildly Independent	Moderately Independent with Limited Scheduled Support	Mostly Independent with Intermittent Teacher Oversight
Daily Time Requirements (see note below)	K-5 (5 hours of instructional time) 6-12 (6 hours of instructional time)	K-5 (5 hours of instructional time) 6-12 (6 hours of instructional time)	K-5 (5 hours of instructional time) 6-12 (6 hours of instructional time)	K-5 (5 hours of instructional time) 6-12 (6 hours of instructional time)
Yearly Day Requirements	180	180	180	180

Note: When considering instructional time requirements for content delivered through the off-site context (Options 2, 3 & 4 above), it is important to extract and focus on the time during which students are academically engaged. For example, a five (5) hour instructional day where content is delivered on-site consists of both academically engaged time as well as non-academically engaged time, such as passing time. As such, a day of off-site, virtual instruction may consist of less than five (5) hours, but correspond to the amount of academically engaged time provided in a non-remote, in-person instructional day.

Option 2 - What is Remote – Follow Modified Traditional Schedule? Remote education or online learning is an instructional delivery method that is not dependent upon the student and teacher being in the same location. Courses are offered in an off-campus environment via the internet following the Western School Corporation’s established school schedule (Grades K-5 9:00am-3:30pm, Grades 6-12 7:30am-2:30pm). Students are assigned to a remote class with other remote learners and are expected to follow a modified daily schedule as if they were in attendance on campus. Students will receive instruction and support from Western School Corporation’s certified staff as if they were on campus. Instruction will be delivered via Zoom with students following the same curricular content of the students who are on campus. With trained and certified teachers, students receive instruction, support and communications on an ongoing basis throughout the course. Students get upfront attention from their online instructor and are supported by the Special Projects Administrator (765-883-5576 ext. 5116 pquillen@western.k12.in.us).

Additionally, students have the support of our technology department, school counseling staff, administration, and pupil services. Only Western School residents and accepted

transfer students are eligible for admission to the Western School Corporation Remote/Distance Learning Program.

Option 3 - What is Remote – eLearning Format? (Grades K-5 Only) When a student is unable to follow the remote, live schedule option as outlined in Option 2 due to location and supervision constraints, he/she may participate in Remote – eLearning option (with administrative approval). This option allows the student to access instructional materials, assignments and resources at a time that works for the student and their at-home support system. The instructional lessons will be recorded and then uploaded to Google Classroom. The Remote - eLearning student will then be able to view those recorded lessons outside normal school hours and complete assignments based on the due dates set by the teacher in Google Classroom. Support services and communication will be based according to the availability of the student and teacher(s) and provided through email, phone calls, and scheduled Zoom sessions.

Option 4 - What is Remote – Online through Edmentum or other online programs? (Grades 6-12).

When a student is unable to follow the remote, live schedule option as outlined in Option 2 due to location and supervision constraints, he/she may participate in Remote – Online learning through Edmentum or other online programs offered by Western (with administrative approval). This program option is also available when a teacher is not available to cover a particular course for students in grades 6-12 who are selecting Option 2. Students access lesson materials provided through the online program offered by Western and work at their own pace. A certified teacher will be assigned to that particular course to supervise, monitor, and provide support for the individual student. Support services and communication will be based according to the availability of the student and teacher(s) and provided through email, phone calls, and scheduled Zoom sessions.

4. Can you provide a sample daily timeline/agenda for those opting into the virtual learning option?
See above question. The schedule will be dependent on the option chosen.
5. I choose virtual/elearning for my kindergartener will we get an iPad like we did for my other children?
Yes
6. if I pick virtual as an option for one kid do I have to pick it for all 3?
No
7. Will there be video chats available to meet teachers and keep in communication with teachers? How will communication be handled between teachers and parents?
Teachers will set up online Zoom meetings to cover communication. They may also use email and phone calls.
8. If Covid-19 continues to get worse, will we have the option of going to remote learning, if we become uncomfortable with sending out children?
Students can request to move from the remote/distance learning option to the on campus/traditional setting only at the end of the semester. Students may request

moving from the on campus/traditional setting to remote/distance learning one time.

9. If a child has to miss school (in person- face to face) because of a tummy hurting or a headache, etc, etc, how will they do the school work? Will they be able to do it that day through the virtual learning? If we pick virtual learning, is it the entire year or are you taking it by semester?

Absences will be handled as they have been in the past through make-up procedures with the teacher. Students can request to move from the remote/distance learning option to the on campus/traditional setting only at the end of the semester.

10. What courses will not be offered online. Since schedules have been selected already, can course selections be changed to line up with online learning?

With the use of Edmentum and other online options through Western, we can match up with current schedules.

11. Will class size be at all limited or smaller than previous years?

Class sizes should be similar as in the past, knowing students will be divided between on campus classes and remote classes. Middle School and High School classes could be smaller based on students taking online classes.

12. Will students stay in one classroom more often instead of switch between one hall (I will have an 8th grader).

Students will transition as they have in the past but disinfecting will occur between classes.

13. Will it be like it was at the end of last school year?

Not necessarily, the IDOE has put out the required time requirements for instruction, which is the same for remote as it is for on campus. Information listed in question #4 provides more detail.

14. Will the e-learning be taught by the same teacher that the student would normally have in school?

Yes, with the exception of the High Ability students in grades K-5. These students will receive differentiated instruction from their assigned Remote/Distance Learning teacher.

15. If my child attends Western and then Western is shifted to e-learning, will that look different than the online option offered?

Depending on the availability of the student during the normal school time, the student could have remote live or the eLearning option. Students who are already on remote will continue to follow that option.

16. My daughter has asthma and migraines, both things that could show "symptoms" of COVID-19 without being sick. Should I do online schooling if I'm concerned about having to keep her home for symptoms a lot?

No, it is important to have that information from your health care provider communicated to our school nurse.

17. Will my child be required to be on iPad for a certain amount of time daily with the remote learning option?

Yes

18. If we enroll our son for campus and the school shuts down, will we have to opt-in for campus or online thereafter again?

If there is a shutdown and we are able to reopen the campus, we will resume classes as originally scheduled.

19. Will e learning be 3 days a week or 5 days a week?

5 days per week.

20. If I choose for my child / children to do online classes, but then it becomes too stressful, or they are struggling, and or failing due to online classes. Can we resubmit them to in-class sessions?

Students can request to move from the remote/distance learning option to the on campus/traditional setting only at the end of the semester.

21. If we decide to do the online option, will we still have to pay the same fees? Will the textbook assistance still be available? Will we have to get supplies for classes? Will I have access to their assignments so I can keep track of them?

Yes

22. If we decide to do the online option, will the student report to an actual Western teacher daily?

Yes, except option 4 will be oversight only with less teacher/student interaction.

23. My kids will be 6th and 3rd graders- will their teachers contact me so we can still become familiar with each other?

Each building is working on details for families to meet the teacher.

24. Do we have an option to pick up hard copy packets for them each week?

Potentially not, we are trying to limit materials going back and forth between home and school as much as we can.

25. I have a 4th grader and 1st grader. Will they still have an assigned "home room" teacher for the e learning option?

Their home room teacher will be their assigned virtual teacher.

Special Education

1. What are your plans for the special needs kids who can't or won't wear a mask?

CDC recognizes that wearing cloth face coverings may not be possible in every situation or for some people. In some situations, wearing a cloth face covering may exacerbate a physical or mental health condition, lead to a medical emergency, or introduce significant safety concerns. Adaptations and alternatives should be considered whenever possible to increase the feasibility of wearing a cloth face covering or to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading if it is not possible to wear one.

Note: Cloth face coverings should **not** be placed on:

- Children younger than 2 years old
- Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious
- Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance

Some people, such as people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health conditions or other sensory sensitivities, may have challenges wearing a cloth face covering. They should consult with their healthcare provider for advice about wearing cloth face coverings.

Western School Corporation recommends working with your child(ren) now to practice wearing a mask. Here are just a few resources that may help:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1s0r9fCI31cEx-gwXxy3xIFULNIGNUUPVNXOI9H6gTFc/mobilepresent?slide=id.p>

<https://www.autismresourcecentral.org/social-stories-for-young-and-old-on-covid-19/>

<https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/family-resources-education/700childrens/2020/05/masks-and-new-routines-helping-children-with-special-needs-during-covid-19>

<https://www.autismnj.org/article/helping-individuals-with-autism-wear-face-masks/>

https://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/news/face-coverings-family-guidance-updated.pdf?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

2. If my child has to do school similar to the e-learning they did in the spring, I am very concerned about them regressing as they did not respond well to that instruction and was not able to receive speech and occupational therapies that are in their IEP. So how will therapy needs be met?

Concerns from spring will be addressed at the beginning of the year to develop a plan for the student regardless of the choice of distance/remote or in-person instruction. Last spring posed challenges for us all as it was not what any of us anticipated. Lessons were learned on our end and changes in the delivery and monitoring process will be made moving forward. Therapies will be provided in the distance/remote learning setting, however, the format may look different.

3. My son is deaf/hard of hearing. He reads lips quite a bit to hear/understand what is being said to him. Will his teacher(s) be able to wear a shield or masks with windows?

Accommodations will be made

Attendance

1. If a student is unable to attend a school day for any reason, will they still be given a sick day or will they be allowed to use e-learning?

On campus students - If the student is absent and it is not COVID related, they will be marked as absent and will be allowed to make their work up as outlined in the school handbook.

Registration

1. How do I register for online classes?

Online registration is through Skyward. There is also an application form.

2. If we were to decide to withdrawal the kids from Western and homeschool them rather than send them to Western or do elearning through the school: how do we and when can we return the school's iPads?

School equipment can be dropped off during walk-in registration as you will need to sign a withdrawal form at the school as well.

Extra-Curricular/Co-Curricular

1. If we choose the remote/online option for our child, will they be able to participate in sports?
If the student is being taught by our teachers at home they are eligible. If they are registered as a Western student, but being taught by someone else or using an online platform, they are considered virtual and will need an IHSAA waiver to be eligible.
2. If we choose the remote/online option for our child, will they be able to participate in band or other co-curricular classes?
If the student is being taught by our teachers at home they are able to participate. If they are registered as a Western student, but being taught by someone else or using an online platform, they are considered virtual and will not be eligible for co-curricular activities.
3. When should we expect to hear dates and specific guidelines for 7th and 8th grade football.
At this time, there have not been any changes to the WMS athletic schedule. Practices will begin on August 3rd. More information will be shared from the Athletic Department.

Health

1. My child is asthmatic and has a nebulizer since he is unable to take an inhaler. In the fall when allergies are bad and if s/he catches a cold in the winter, sometimes s/he becomes short of breath and needs treatment. With the new procedures in place are you able to administer treatment and how does that work?
Suctioning and the use of nebulizers are not recommended in close proximity of others due to the particles that aerosol into the air. The PCP (Primary Care Provider) may change the nebulizer treatment to a MDI (Multi Dose Inhaler).
2. With multiple studies now showing the virus is airborne, if students are permitted to take their masks off in the classroom, how will you help mitigate the spread since it can still be present in the air hours after the infected individual has left?
We are following the information from the ISDH and the CDC.
3. If we send our son to school and he starts to have breathing trouble and cannot wear a mask, as the [CDC](#) says he shouldn't if he has trouble breathing, which he would then be exempt from wearing one; what will you do?
Some people, such as people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health conditions or other sensory sensitivities, may have challenges wearing a cloth face covering. They should consult with their healthcare provider for advice about wearing cloth face coverings.
4. Do I have to buy hand sanitizer?
No, the school will provide hand sanitizer.

Food Service/Cafeteria-

1. Will I be able to pack my son's lunch on a daily basis?
Yes, they can bring their lunch every day if they choose to.
2. I saw that water fountains and bottle filling stations will not be used, but then there was a sentence that said we could send a refillable bottle with our kid's name on it. How will this be filled? Will he be able to use this? Do I need to plan on sending money to purchase water?
Water will be available during breakfast and lunch times as well as designated times of the day. Students can purchase water at breakfast and lunch through

their lunch account prepay. Water and disposable cups will be made available during the day with designated staff with proper PPE to dispense the water or refill the students personal water bottle.

3. Do packed lunches have certain guidelines we need to follow?
Packed lunches will need to meet the requirements found in the student handbook.
4. CDC is suggesting children bring their own lunch, will that be a part of your plan?
Students may bring their lunches, although we will be serving lunch at the school daily.
5. Do water bottles have to be clear?
No, they do not have to be clear but they are also only to contain water. All water bottles need to be clearly marked with the student's name on them
6. If our children take their lunch and do not need to go through the lunch line, will they still need to wear a mask for lunch?
They would only need to wear the mask to go to the lunch room and then can take the mask off once seated.
7. When masks come off in the cafeteria where will the children put them. Obviously they need to stay clean so on the tables would not be an option. A lot of kids' clothing doesn't have pockets, so I was just wondering if there was a plan for that. Maybe a ziplock baggy clipped to the children, or clips on their clothes to put attach them to.
Each building will develop plans to respond to this need. The PTO is purchasing breakaway lanyards for all Primary students to wear, so they can clip their mask into it when they are not wearing the mask.

Building Specific

1. Will the in school platform be different from the e-learning platform?
Both will follow the Western's adopted curriculum and curriculum maps.
2. My 6th grader has been waiting to go into middle school, especially for locker purposes. She is very excited to "decorate" her locker. Will this be allowed this year?
Students attending Western Middle School will be allowed to bring a backpack and/or lunch box. All materials inside the backpack will be limited to what is on the school supply list. No extra items will be allowed unless otherwise agreed upon by the building principal. Lockers will only be used at the beginning of the day, at lunch, and at the end of the day. Lockers will not be used at other times throughout the day in order to promote social distancing and to discourage gathering. Therefore, students will not be decorating their lockers.
3. Will the 6th grade students be able to go into the middle school, to do a walk through, locate their locker and classroom before the first day of school?
We will not be having an open house or back to school night, more virtual or via Facebook tours.
4. What is the plan for students when they get into the building, particularly kindergarteners who will be unsure what to do and who to ask for help? Will there be teachers waiting as soon as they come in the doors to guide them? Or teachers walking them in from drop off?
All of the building staff will be assigned throughout the building to Greet and escort the students upon arrival. All students will have a positive, organized, and safe experience getting to their classroom on the first day of school. The gym will be utilized for the Kindergarteners throughout the first week of school.

Kindergarten students will wear color coded tags with the student name and teacher name on his/her backpack. The Kindergarten teachers and aides will greet and organize the students into classes while in the gym, then lead each class to their Kindergarten classroom.

5. Is there a plan that involves us meeting our teachers in the new future?
We will not be having an open house or back to school night, more virtual or via Facebook tours.
6. What is the expected teacher to students ratio this year? If the in-person student population is down will the number of teachers be decreased or will teachers just have a smaller class size?
Student to teacher ratio is expected to be similar to years past, but some may have on campus classes while others may have remote classes. If the student population is down the teachers will have smaller classes sizes
7. Are there lists of supplies that will be needed that will be given to parents in order to be prepared on the first day of school? Will kids be able to bring backpacks and items to school? will they be expected to leave all supplies at the school/ will masks be expected to be left at school for use or bring them daily with them?
 1. Supply lists are available on the School website located under the "supply list" tab.
 2. Primary and Intermediate students can bring supplies on the first day of school. The supplies will be left at school. Backpacks are permitted.
 3. MS & HS - Students will need to bring their supplies to the first day of school or whenever they need them. They can store supplies in their locker but will only be able to go to the locker before and after school, or to get lunch.
 4. It is recommended a student has at least 2 masks. A mask to be left at school and a mask to use for bus transportation that will travel to and from school with the student. It will be important for parents to keep the masks clean for the student, thus a rotation of clean masks will be beneficial for the parent and students to use.
8. What are the school hours? Will hours be reduced or changed to accommodate changes with COVID 19?
School hours will remain the same to meet the state required instructional time.
9. Is Western going to have a meet the teacher night, and will students be able to see their classroom before the start of school? If we do, will we be able to take school supplies that day?
We will not have a meet the teacher night. Each building will have a remote opportunity for students and parents to meet the teacher. Students will bring supplies to school on the first day of school.
10. I have a third grader who will be in a new building and I'm uncertain about sending my child to a new building with a new teacher, whom we haven't met. Will there be teachers to help guide the students?
All of the building staff will be assigned throughout the building to greet and escort the students upon arrival. All students will have a positive, organized, and safe experience getting to their classroom on the first day of school.
11. Can you please tell me what you are going to do in the locker hallways? How will you enforce students wearing masks?
Halls will be supervised by staff to ensure students are following the requirement. This requirement should also be reinforced by parents.

12. Will students still have choir class? Will they sing without a mask? They will do what is best for the students.

Yes. The music teachers have a plan to space the students out and in some cases, work in smaller groups. There will be opportunities to sing without a mask if they can distance the students enough. Masks will be used if they can't space students out. There are plans to use other rooms besides the choir room. (auditorium, dance room, etc.)

13. What is the plan for high school advanced PE classes?

Just like in summer workouts, the students working in the weightroom will wipe down all workstations after they use them with cleaning products and their own cloth. There will be extra cleaning in those areas. The PE teachers will develop plans that split groups so we aren't ever overcrowded in workout spaces.

14. What is the plan for LIFEGUARDING classes?

We will still have Lifeguarding. The teacher and students will be able to social distance easily in that class.

15. In the middle school we might have six or seven students waiting to use each of the two microwaves. It is tough to keep them 6 feet apart and they would all be using the same keypad On the microwave. Should we let parents know microwaves are not going to be available? If we do have them, we will have to put some marks on the floor or something so kids know how far to stand apart.

Microwave ovens will not be utilized at this time.

16. One question the kiddos have is since locker trips are limited, are they allowed to carry backpacks?

MS/HS can carry their backpacks to and from school, but not to each classroom.

17. Will Middle and High School students still be able to volunteer in the Primary or Intermediate buildings from 2:30-3:30 each day?

No, we want to eliminate, as much as possible, students going from one building to another.

18. He is planning on going to KACC. If he decides to do remote learning can he still go to KACC in the afternoon? If he does the remote learning first semester then decides to go on campus for the second semester or vice versa can he? What about picture day and convos will be able to do those if he is doing the remote learning?

Yes, a student taking remote classes at Western can attend the Kokomo Area Career Center (KACC). The high school will try to eliminate any large group gatherings unless it is absolutely necessary.

19. My child is in the WALC program. Can s/he complete the WALC course at home? Also, if they decided to take a course at the Career Center would s/he be able to just get the remaining credits that s/he needs through WALC without going to the Career Center.

WALC uses Edmentum so they would be able to do online classes at home. A student that chooses this pathway will need to meet with their counselor in regards to the graduation pathway, but the Career Center classes need to be taken at KACC.

20. Will primary students be permitted to wear neck gaiters versus masks?

Yes, as long as the face covering covers the nose and mouth and is school appropriate.

21. Will the parents get to meet the teacher at all?
Yes but in a different format that will be determined by each building.
22. Can the kids carry the backpacks around in the high school?
No, students will not be allowed to carry the backpacks around the buildings.
23. So for the middle schoolers, will they be allowed to switch classes each period or how will this work on a daily basis?
MS classes will switch as scheduled normally, they may have a controlled passing period.
24. If I do virtual learning this year with my kindergartener and she isn't quite ready for 1st with it can I send her back to regular kindergarten next year?
Discussions and decisions regarding retention take place during the final months of the school year. Discussions regarding the child's progress and supporting data will take place as collective team including parents, teacher, and administrator.
25. We have not seen any mention about the class size. Based on our boys' experience with Western high school classes, we understand they can vary from 10-12 students all the way up to 25-30 students. How is the school planning to manage the class size? We think to have enough social distancing with 25 kids or more would be hard and challenging in a classroom.
WSC schools will attempt to balance the number of students in each classroom so that class sizes will be as low as possible. Meeting the student's academic needs or fulfilling course requirements may impact class sizes. WSC buildings are planning ways to keep students at an appropriate social distance.

Assignments

1. Will assignments have specific times due or will it be due at the end of the day?
The teacher will determine the due date for assignments.

Standardized Testing

1. What standardized testing will be required for the upcoming school year?
We are waiting on the IDOE for further guidance.
2. If a student opts in to the virtual instruction program, what requirements/expectations will be defined for standardized testing? i.e. will they be required to report in person or is remote proctoring an option?
We are waiting on the IDOE for further guidance.

Guidelines-

1. If Covid-19 eventually lessons tremendously, will the school ease the strict guidelines, such as masks in hallways, small groups, buses, etc?
Western School Corporation understands that the level of community spread may change and require adjustments to our initial plans, as illustrated above. Conditions will be monitored on at least a nine (9) weeks basis with guidance from the state and Howard County Health Departments, and adjusted as needed. Western currently does not anticipate making any adjustments to the 2020-2021 school calendar.
2. High school classes - if one person gets a confirmed case of COVID does that shut the school down?
We would work with the County Health Department, in making that decision.

3. Do you have a protocol for teachers, staff, and custodial personnel? If so how will it be enforced?
Yes, we have protocols for our staff members and it will be enforced by their supervisors.
4. Will you put in new HEPA air filters?
We will conduct our routine air filter replacement. According to the CDC air filtration should not be relied on for controlling the spread of COVID-19. We are looking into ways to increase fresh air circulation throughout the building.
5. Will you use UV lighting to aid in killing the viruses?
We will not be using UV lighting and will follow the cleaning guidelines from the CDC.
6. Will temperatures be taken before entering on a daily basis child or adult?
All students and employees are required to self-screen **DAILY** before coming to school. Students and employees exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19
7. What will happen when the child or adult comes in with symptoms?
Each Western school will have a room or space separate from the nurse's clinic where students or employees, who are feeling ill or have symptoms, can be evaluated or can wait for pick up. The school nurse will screen students and employees to determine next steps. All waiting staff and students will wear a cloth face covering in the designated area. Only essential staff assigned to the room may enter. Each school will maintain a record of all persons who entered the room and the room will be disinfected several times throughout the day. Strict social distancing is required and staff must wear appropriate PPE. Students who are ill will be walked out of the building to their parents. Additionally, all staff and students with fevers or symptoms associated with COVID-19 will be encouraged to seek medical attention for further evaluation and instructions. Students and staff may return before the 72-hour window has elapsed if they are approved to do so in writing by their healthcare provider.
8. At what infection rate among parents will you be willing to close in school activities?
At this time, we do not have a specific rate to determine when in school activities will be closed. We will use the guidance from local health officials to determine if infection rates are substantial.
9. Do you feel it is safe for the children, parents, grandparents and teachers to be back at this time when we are just starting to increase our cases and at almost 10% positive rate of testing as well as 10% death rate, appears to be the highest death rate in the state on a percentage basis?
We are working with local and state officials for guidance on the spread of COVID-19. We are taking all measures to make our schools safe.
10. Can they wear a face shield?
Yes, a face shield would be an acceptable form of protection.
11. I believe that evidence points towards masks being an effective means of limiting transmission, is wearing the mask going to be enforced or are there going to be "exceptions" to the rule?
Yes, wearing a mask will be enforced and there and the only exceptions would be for medical reasons with a physician's documentation.
12. If we choose to travel during a break, will the kids be required to quarantine upon return before attending school? If that is not known at this point what is the expectation for making that determination? ie: are we going to find out 2 days before leaving that

quarantine is required and be forced to make a quick decision?

The school may require students or staff to quarantine upon returning to school. It is important to communicate these plans with the school as soon as possible so we can inform you of our expectations and procedures.

13. If we choose to send our child to school and then s/he can't wear a mask, will we have the opportunity to switch to online learning?

Students will be allowed to make one change (with administrative approval).

14. Is Western going to supply masks for all students?

We will have masks available for students when they do not have a mask. Please reference your child's school supply list as masks are a part of the student's school supply.

15. What kind of masks will be required? I'm wondering if disposable masks can be worn?

There is not a specific brand or style that is required. We ask that masks are clean and school appropriate. A mask is a covering made of a fiber or gauze that fits over the nose and mouth to protect against dust, air pollutants, or to prevent infection of the wearer and others.

16. Will students have to wear masks during class time?

All students are required to wear a mask in any circumstance where social distancing is not an option or if requested by a staff member.

17. Can we sign a paper to not make our kids wear a mask?

Students who cannot or will not wear a mask during the required times at school will need to utilize our remote/distance learning option at home

18. Should parents be required to find and purchase Lysol wipes and hand sanitizer? Not only is it hard (sometimes impossible) to find, it can be a financial burden for parents once they do find it. And should parents have to choose finding the supplies for school ahead of finding these supplies for themselves?

We ask that parents do their best to fulfill the supply lists provided by the school for their children.

19. Due to the board of health guidelines, what will the attendance policy look like this year? I do not want to run to the office and pay unnecessary co-pays just for a note.

If a student has a fever, for any reason, it is required that the student be fever-free, without the use of fever-reducing medications, for 72 hours before returning to school. Additionally, all students with fevers or symptoms associated with COVID-19 will be encouraged to seek medical attention for further evaluation and instructions. Students may return before the 72-hour window has elapsed if they are approved to do so in writing by their healthcare provider.

20. Also, when children have to be out 10 days with COVID symptoms, if they attend class in person, will instructors give them all their work on line during that time or will we need to pick up work? How long will they have to turn in work missed?

Students will follow the attendance and make-up work policy in the student handbook. We will make every effort to accommodate for the student's needs during their absence.

21. Western would like students and parents to commit to the whole semester for in person or online education. Things have been changing fast during the pandemic, and no one knows what the future holds. Would it be possible to commit to a term instead of the whole semester? Due to the pandemic or any other educational reasons, students may need to switch from in person to online, or vice-versa. I think the term or nine weeks will be fair for students to switch and not waiting for the semester to finish.

To meet the academic needs, records, and requirements for the student's academic progress; semester transitions will guarantee the completion of a course.

Other-

1. We will be homeschooling our child. Are there any other steps we need to take or someone specific we should contact?

You would need to contact the school to withdrawal and complete the proper paperwork.

2. Have you thought about splitting up the school days with a combo of online and on campus? Example: Juniors and Seniors going for a couple weeks or a month and then doing online the next time while the freshman and sophomores go on campus and so on? This would decrease the number of students at school, easier to maintain social distancing, and reduce exposure to infections and the need to wear masks all day.

We have considered hybrid options and splitting up days, but our task force decided that this would not be a part of our plan

3. Should I pay for a level 1 background check for this school year? Will there be any need if there will be no visitors in the building?

Currently, there will not be visitors in the building. If the situation would improve and visitors would be allowed, you would need a level 1 background check.

4. Can I change my mind about sending my kids in person before school starts? I need to register them and pick in person or online this week. I don't feel I can make the best choice at this time. The fair and many sporting events have people gathering and I would like to see what comes out of that to be 100% sure. We still have a month before school starts, numbers could rise

Registration goes through July 27th. You can make your decision between now and the 27th.