

Wyoming Valley West School District
BACK TO SCHOOL AT CHESTER



April 2021

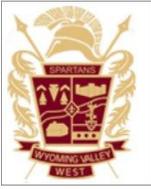
Chester Elementary is planning for our April 12, 2021 return to five day per week traditional school. The Chester Street Elementary plan may change as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves due to the guidelines from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Center of Disease Control, the World Health Organization and other governmental agencies. Throughout the planning process, the district has remained committed to the safety, welfare and education of all the students and staff. The building procedures are as follows:

ENHANCED FOCUS ON SAFETY AND HYGIENE

- All staff and parents/students will be expected to perform a **daily self-check** prior to coming to school. Individuals with elevated temperatures or symptoms of COVID-19 or any other illness are expected to stay home. Students/staff returning to school after an absence of 3 days or more are required to provide verification from a medical provider of fitness to return to the school setting.
- We will institute **daily hand-washing and hand-sanitizing protocols**, and our daily routines will include frequent reminders about hygienic practices. Face-to-face interactions will be minimized and will be subject to CDC and WHO guidelines for **distancing**. We will have hand-sanitizer stations located in each room along with frequent signage to increase our vigilance in sanitary behaviors.
- Our school building will be **cleaned and disinfected** each day, and high-traffic areas of the building will be sanitized throughout the day. Specific classrooms will use disinfectant materials and techniques between classes.
- **Ventilation and air-handling protocols** will be enhanced to ensure adequate air circulation.
- **Students and staff will be required to wear masks during the entire day. Students will be expected to bring their own masks to school.**
- We will have a designated **Quarantine/Isolation area** for students who become ill or symptomatic during the school day.

1. TRANSPORTATION PROTOCOLS

- Our transportation plan is being reviewed to provide the safest possible environment to transport students to school and will include designated seating and other precautions.
- Chester parents will be surveyed to determine which families will rely on bus transportation, parent/guardian transport, or walking for their students.
- **All bus students will be required to wear masks and sit in assigned seats.**



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2. REVISED BUILDING ENTRY & DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

- Chester Elementary has new specific protocols for the arrival and dismissal of students. The protocols are designed to eliminate the congregation of students and/or parents outside of the building.
- All students/staff will be required to **wear masks to be admitted to the building.**
- **ENTRY/ARRIVAL:**
 - **Students will not be permitted to “line up” outside the building prior to entry.**
 - Students arriving at school by bus will be released at specific times, **no earlier than 8:40 AM, and enter the school directly from the bus through the rear door.**
 - **Students dropped off at the school or walking to school will be admitted beginning at 8:45 AM** and their arrival at school should be timed accordingly. **Self-transported students will enter the building through the front door.**
 - Students entering the buildings will report directly to their classrooms/homerooms.
 - Breakfast will take place in the classrooms/homerooms.
- **DISMISSAL:**
 - Students will be dismissed on a staggered basis by floor starting at 3:30 PM to reduce the number of students exiting into hallways and outside the building.

3. DISTANCING/OPERATIONAL PROTOCOLS

- **Classroom organization** will include appropriate distancing according to PDE, CDC, & WHO guidelines, with elimination of face-to-face student seats and other precautions.
 - All desks will be spaced appropriately and face the same direction.
 - Safety shield barriers will be used where appropriate.
 - All students and staff will use **PPE** as appropriate, including masks, shields, disposable gloves, and other equipment.
- **Student movement through the building will be reduced** as much as possible.
- Students will be assigned their own supplies like crayons, scissors, etc. where possible to minimize sharing of materials.
- **Stairways will be designated directionally (one way, up or down)** to reduce students passing each other face-to-face.
- **Lunches** will be “grab-and-go” bag lunches to reduce lunch lines where students congregate. There will be 5 lunch periods to allow distanced seating in the cafeteria.
- **Mask Breaks** will be held at the discretion of the classroom teacher. Mask breaks may take place in the classroom or preferably outdoors for 10 minutes or less per break. While unmasked students will maintain a 6 foot separation.

**The district is opening in a traditional five days a week in-person student learning mode. All students have the opportunity to attend school five days per week or may choose to receive remote packet learning for the remainder of the year. The choice is between five days in-person learning or five days fully remote learning.