



Wyoming Valley West School District

MIDDLE SCHOOL



April 2021

Wyoming Valley West School District is planning for our full school reopening. As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, these plans may change, depending on guidelines from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Center for Disease Control, the World Health Organization, and other governmental agencies, but what will remain constant is our concern for the safety, welfare, and education of all of our students and staff. Here is what you can expect when you return to the Middle School:

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**. Hand-sanitizer stations located in each room along with frequent signage will increase our vigilance in sanitary behaviors.
- All areas of the 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.**
- The building will have a designated **Quarantine/Isolation area** for students who become ill or symptomatic during the school day.

1. TRANSPORTATION PROTOCOLS

- Our transportation plan will provide the safest possible environment to transport students to school and will include designated seating and other precautions.
- Middle School parents/guardians will be surveyed to determine which families will rely on bus transportation, parent/guardian transport, or walking for their students.

2. REVISED BUILDING ENTRY & DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

- We have new specific protocols for the arrival and dismissal of students, 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 congregate outside of the building prior to 8:00 AM, when the building will open for their entry.**
 - Students arriving at school by bus will be released from the buses beginning at 8:00 AM and enter the school directly from the bus, using the designated entrances for their grades. 6th grade uses the sports door on the front west side (right); 7th uses the doors on the east (left) side; 8th grade enters through the center main doors.

- Students self-transporting (drop off or walking) will be admitted through concourse doors **beginning at 8:05 AM** and their arrival at school should be timed accordingly.
- Students entering the buildings will report directly to their classrooms/homerooms. (Breakfast will be eaten in the classroom.)

- **DISMISSAL:**

- Students will be dismissed on a staggered basis, odd & even rooms by floor, **beginning at 2:55 PM**, to reduce the simultaneous exit of large groups of students into hallways and outside of the building.

3. **DISTANCING/OPERATIONAL PROTOCOLS**

- **Classroom organization** will include appropriate distancing according to PDE, CDC, and WHO guidelines, with the elimination of face-to-face student seating 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 will be reduced** to the maximum extent possible; changes of class will be staggered to reduce the number of students moving through the halls together.
- **Stairways and hallways will be designated directionally (up or down, one-way)** wherever possible to reduce students passing each other face-to-face.
- **Lunches** for the first marking period will be “grab-and-go” bag lunches to reduce lunch lines where students congregate. Distanced seating will be assigned, and additional seating areas will be used to provide adequate seating.
- **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.