

WVSD RETURN TO SCHOOL

NOTICE OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES INCLUDING COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented school administration, teachers and staff with a myriad of challenges concerning this highly contagious illness that appears to attack the upper respiratory system but which may also cause blood clots and other serious health complications. Some severe outcomes have been reported in children, and a child with a mild or even asymptomatic case of COVID-19 can spread the infection to others who may be far more vulnerable, including to other family members of the student's household such as individuals with comorbidity/preexisting health conditions.

You and your student should be aware of the potential risks for infection of coronavirus and other pathogens. While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the WVSD will take precautions and comply with guidelines from the federal, state, and local governments, CDC, PA DOH, as well as the NFHS and PIAA, to reduce the risks to students, teachers, and third parties. As knowledge regarding COVID-19 is constantly changing, WVSD reserves the right to adjust and implement precautionary methods as necessary to decrease the risk of exposure for our study body. Some precautionary protocols in the WVSD Return to School Plan may include but may not be limited to:

1. Encourage social distancing and promote healthy hygiene practices such as hand washing, using hand sanitizer, etc.
2. Mandate wearing of face coverings and masks at all times, and in particular when social distancing is not possible
3. Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation in all facilities;
4. Recommend Students to bring their own water bottle for hydration.
5. Health screenings prior to any entry into the building including temperature checks and inquiries

In sending your student to school, you understand and acknowledge the known and unknown risks associated with exposure to communicable diseases such as COVID-19, including possibly contracting the disease or spreading it to others in school or at home. You are further aware of the risks associated with COVID-19 and that certain vulnerable individuals may have greater health risks associated with exposure to COVID-19, including individuals with serious underlying health conditions such as, but not limited to: high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, asthma, and those whose immune systems that are compromised by chemotherapy for cancer, and other conditions requiring such therapy. While particular recommendations and personal discipline may reduce the risks associated with attending school during the COVID-19 pandemic, the risk of serious illness, medical complications and possible death does exist.

Additionally, in sending your student to school, your student shall abide by and comply with the recommendations and guidelines put forth by WVSD to limit the exposure and spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES/CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

In accordance with the Regulations of the State Board of Education and Board Policy 218, students shall have the following rights and responsibilities as defined in this handbook.

RIGHT TO A FREE EDUCATION

All persons residing in this Commonwealth between the ages of 6 and 21 years are entitled to a free and full education in the Commonwealth's public schools. Parents or guardians of all children between the ages of 8 and 17 are required by the compulsory attendance law to ensure that their children attend an approved educational institution, unless legally excused. Students who have not graduated may not be asked to leave school merely because they have reached 17 years of age if they are fulfilling their responsibilities as students. A student may not be excluded from the public schools or from extracurricular activities because of being married or pregnant, having a disability identified by Chapter 15, or is an eligible student identified under Chapter 14.

NON-DISCRIMINATION-SCHOOL/CLASSROOM PRACTICES

It is the policy of the Williams Valley School District to provide for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs offered in the school regardless of race, color, familial status, age, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, handicap/disability, or any other characteristic protected by law.

The district shall provide to all students, without discrimination, course offerings, counseling, assistance, employment, athletics, and extracurricular activities. The district shall make reasonable accommodations for identified physical and mental impairments that constitute disabilities, consistent with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations.

TARDINESS TO SCHOOL

Students reporting to the homeroom after the 7:44 AM bell has rung will be marked tardy to homeroom and disciplined according to the tardy to class procedure. (Reference Behavior Guidelines Section of Student Handbook)

Students who arrive at school between 7:50AM and 10:00 AM will be marked tardy to school and should report to the Guidance Office for a pass to attend class.

Students who are tardy to school six (6) times will be assessed one (1) day of unlawful absence. Tardies will accumulate throughout the school year with penalties increasing for excessive tardiness at a rate of one unlawful day of absence for every two tardies following the initial 6 tardies.

Students reporting after 10:00 AM will be marked 1/2 day absent.

All students participating in after-school activities/athletics must report prior to 11:00 AM in order to be eligible to practice or participate in an activity or event unless a medical excuse is provided prior to the practice/event.

TITLE IX

The Williams Valley School District does not discriminate in any manner, including Title IX sexual harassment, in any District education program or activity. The District has established Title IX personnel to promptly respond to concerns and reports of sexual harassment and assault. All investigations into reports of sexual harassment and assault will be impartial, free of bias and conflicts, and will not prejudice the facts for either side. The District strives to maintain an environment where all students, staff, and greater community feel safe.

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance."- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to the Civil Rights Act of 1964

The District Title IX Coordinator is:
Name: Dr. Brian Pipech
Title: Federal Programs and Community Liaison
Address: 10330 State Route 209
Tower City, PA 17980-9474

Phone: 717-647-2167 Ext. 1224
Fax: 717-647-2055
Email: bpipech@wvschools.net

Please refer to Board Policies #247 and #249 for additional information.

TRUANCY (ALL STUDENTS)

According to PA Department of Education guidelines, any unlawful absence is considered truant.

Students should NEVER leave the high school building or property for any reason once they arrive at school without authorization from the high school office or high school nurse. Students who leave during school hours without appropriate permission will be recorded as being truant. Students who are truant from school will not receive credit for schoolwork that was missed as a result of the absence and a grade of zero (0) will be given for all class work missed that day. Also, disciplinary action will be taken by administration.

****Whenever a student is suspended for more than three (3) consecutive days, the student and parent/guardian are required to meet with an administrator before the student returns to class.****

Students assigned ISS or OSS will be responsible to complete assignments given by his/her teachers. **A student assigned OSS may not come on school property** (except to pick up/drop off school work, or when attending an Informal hearing); **nor may the student attend school-related or after-school functions during the time of his/her OSS.** Students violating this rule will be subject to additional disciplinary action.

Students assigned to ISS will be responsible to complete daily assignments given by his/her teachers. During his/her time in ISS, the student will remain separate from the student body, and will be subject to certain restrictions.

TERRORISTIC THREATS/ACTS

Hoaxes, pranks or threats of this nature will be treated as serious offenses and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent, and may lead to expulsion.

- A terroristic threat shall mean a threat to commit violence with the intent to terrorize another, to cause evacuation of a building or to cause serious public inconvenience in reckless disregard of the risk of causing terror/inconvenience.
- A terroristic act shall mean an offense against property or involving danger to another person.

Refer to Board Policy #218.2

TOBACCO AND VAPING PRODUCTS

Williams Valley Schools are a smoke-free environment. Possession and/or use or distribution of tobacco or any tobacco product on school property or at a school-sponsored activity, which includes equipment and/or smoking paraphernalia, is prohibited.

Possession of tobacco or use of tobacco products by students is prohibited in school buildings and school buses and on school property owned by, leased by, or under control of Williams Valley School District. This includes **smoking in vehicles**, either moving or stationary, on school property. Smoking includes possession of a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or other lighted smoking equipment. Tobacco use includes smoking and the use of smokeless tobacco in any form.

Students found to be in possession of tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, vapes, juuls, etc. on school property, or who use tobacco products on school property are in violation of state law as per Act 145. Students in violation of Act 145 will be referred to the District Magistrate and may be subject to a fine plus court costs at the discretion of the Magistrate and will be assigned additional school disciplinary consequences.

Students who use/possess electronic cigarette devices and paraphernalia will be disciplined in the same manner as students who use tobacco products.

Refer to Board Policy #222

WEAPONS

Weapon – the term shall include, but not be limited to any loaded or unloaded firearm, and explosive device of any kind including, without limitation, any smoke bomb, firecracker, cherry bomb, dynamite or any other type of explosive, pyrotechnic or incendiary device of any kind; and knife; nun-chuck stick(s); and chains, brass knuckles, night stick, straight razor, razor blade, or another other tool or instrument not reasonably related to the educational curriculum; and instrument or devices of any kind that emit or could cause to be emitted any noxious, irritating or poisonous gases; ace handles; slingshots; or any other instrument, implement or chemical capable of inflicting serious bodily injury or death.

Firearm- included actual firearms of any type, air gun, pellet gun, BB guns, stun gun, or any other kind of device which propels or remits a projectile or electrical charge, including any look-alike firearms whether capable of operation and whether or not loaded/unloaded.

Students found to be in possession of a weapon while they are on school property or while they are being transported to and from school will be suspended, out of school. An administrative hearing will be scheduled with the Superintendent before the student is permitted to return to school. Violations of this policy will be reported to law enforcement and could result in expulsion from school.

Section 1317.2 of Act 26 requires that a school district shall expel, a student for a period of not less than one year, who brings onto, or is in possession of, any weapon on any school property, at a school or a school-sponsored activity or onto any public conveyance providing transportation to a school or school-sponsored activity.

Refer to Board Policy #218.1

ONLINE LEARNING HANDBOOK ADDENDUM

ONLINE LEARNING OVERVIEW

Instructional choices at this time include the hybrid option where students attend 2 days a week and are taught virtually for the other three days of the week. (The WVSD Health and Safety Plan outlines which days students attend in person.) Using live (synchronous) and instruction completed outside of the regular school hours (asynchronous), each student will work with the support of their Williams Valley School District teachers to be successful on the days they are not scheduled to be onsite or if they choose a 100% online option.

Students will engage DAILY in high levels of rigor and relevance through a collaborative and personalized learning experience. Individual Education Program (IEPs), Gifted Education Plans (GIEPs), and/or 504 Plans continue to be developed and implemented across all settings and special education programming and related services will continue to be provided revising current IEPs to reflect modified learning environments, while maintaining FAPE.

ATTENDANCE

All teachers grades K-12 will use Google Meet as the primary learning management system for remote instruction, to fully cover the required curriculum. Each teacher will create a Google Classroom where assignments, activities, videos, and homework will be posted.

Attendance will be taken daily for all onsite students in the Skyward portal by teachers. On virtual days, students will mark themselves present in Google Classroom.

Students attending synchronously must mark themselves present on Google Classroom by 7:45 AM (High School Students)/8:45 AM (Elementary School Students) every day.

Students attending asynchronously must mark themselves present in Google Classroom at the earliest time available every day.

Elementary- The check in form for attendance will be posted in the classroom teacher's google classroom.

High School- The code to join to Google Classroom Homeroom is: pbxvaib. Daily School announcements will also be posted to this classroom.

COMMUNICATION

Teachers will be able to provide guidance to students working online during normal school hours. While work may be completed outside of those hours, teachers will only be available during the school day. Each teacher will provide academic support information/hours/procedure as part of the Google Classroom

- Students will be able to speak virtually to teachers during live lessons.
- Teachers will be available through email, office phone, and virtual meetings.

Items to Note:

- Students attend live, real time lessons with their Williams Valley teachers.
- All lessons will be recorded and available to students who cannot participate live (asynchronous).

DAILY LESSON COMPONENTS

• Instruction: May include - a short video, Power Point, visual, etc. (10-20 min.). It will include examples by sharing the teacher's screen, visuals that help teach where the student is and what problems they may be having.

• Reinforcement: May include - an additional resource that goes along with the skill introduced. This can be an additional video, a different reading prompt, a different example of teaching the skill, or pictures that show a step by step process.

- **Independent Practice:** May include - a few questions, problems, etc. that will help the teacher determine if a skill has been met. This will give a better understanding.
- **Lesson Extension:** May include - practice problems for students.

GRADING/FEEDBACK

A variety of engaging activities will be assigned to maintain student enthusiasm and motivation to learn. Assignments will be graded in accordance with Williams Valley School District's grading policy, the same that is used during at-school learning days.

- **Elementary (K-6)** - Synchronous students will be allowed a minimum of 24 hours to complete assignments. Asynchronous students will be allowed a minimum of 48 hours to complete assignments. Extenuating circumstances should be brought to the attention of the classroom teacher(s).
- **Secondary (7-12)** - Synchronous students are held to the deadlines established by the classroom teacher within the parameters of the student handbook. Asynchronous students work is due at 11:59 PM Sunday each week. Extenuating circumstances should be brought to the attention of the classroom teacher(s). Every effort should be made to submit assignments in Google Classroom.
- Incomplete work will be reflected on final grades. Please stay in communication with your child's teacher if there are technology concerns or difficulty submitting assignments. Communicate with school any technology issues that may arise.

Feedback concerning assignments will be given through the grading of the assignment, communication through email, correspondence and phone calls. During remote learning, guardians can expect communication at least once a week (phone, email, Class Dojo, etc.) to receive feedback on their child's progress. When grading and assessing students, we will abide by the grading policy adopted by the Williams Valley School Board. For grades K-12, grades are to be updated weekly in Skyward. This is critically important when operating in a remote learning environment.

GUIDANCE/ BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONISTS SERVICES

District guidance services are available for all students through the counselors or behavioral interventionists. Students may arrange for individual or group conferences with their respective counselor/interventionist. Students can arrange meetings through email and a counselor/interventionist will reach out to him/her. During student in-person days, students may reach out and schedule an appointment with their respective school counselor and/or behavioral interventionist.

LIVE INSTRUCTION/LIVE STREAMING

Teachers will be providing daily live instruction via a live streaming platform (Google Meets). This will be recorded for students if they aren't available during the day or a video of a similar lesson will be pre-recorded and posted;

- All students and parents must sign the Virtual Learning Agreement, through the Skyward Portal, which prohibits the recording and distribution of live lessons.
- Please remember that what is seen during live instruction regarding the students in the class is confidential, just as it would be if you were volunteering in the physical class on campus;
- Students need to remain on mute while the teacher is teaching. Students shouldn't
- mute or unmute others;
- Refrain from chats, both group and private, unless assigned by the teacher;
- Be mindful that everything can be seen by the teacher and administration.
- The Student Code of Conduct should be adhered to, even remotely;
- Try to minimize distractions and noise so not only your child may focus, but others in the class as well.

Refer to Board Policy #830.

MASKS

The universal mask order is in effect please visit

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/Universal-Masking-FAQ.aspx> for information on this topic

Of particular interest from the state website:

What type of mask complies with this Order?

The Order requires individuals to wear a "face covering." "Face covering" means a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is wrapped around the lower face. A "face covering" can be made of a variety of synthetic or natural fabrics, including cotton, silk, or linen, and, for the purposes of the order, can include a plastic face shield that covers the nose and mouth. "Face coverings" may be factory-made, sewn by hand, or improvised from household items, including but not limited to, scarves, bandanas, t-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels. While procedural and surgical masks intended for health care providers and first responders, such as N95 respirators, would meet these requirements, these specialized masks should be reserved for appropriate occupational and health care settings.

Under what circumstances are students permitted to remove their face coverings (e.g. masks and face shields)?

Schools may allow students to remove face coverings when students are:

- Eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart; or
- When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task; or
- At least 6 feet apart during "face-covering breaks" to last no longer than 10 minutes.

MEALS

Students will receive meals onsite on days attending in person. Monday/Tuesday students will receive 3 breakfast and 3 lunch meals to take home to complete 5 day/week access to meals. Similarly, Thursday/Friday students will receive 3 breakfast and 3 lunch meals to take home to complete 5 day/week access to meals. *** Those attending in person 2 days, have the opportunity to pick up their 3 day supply on Wednesday as well. Students attending all online instruction will have the opportunity to pick up 5 days of meals on a Wednesday between 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM at the WVJSHS building.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special Education Accordingly, in light of the health and safety emergency circumstances accompanying the state mandated school closures and the requirement for social distancing, District staff will continue to provide individualized education to the child to the best of their abilities through the child's IEP, with parental participation, if possible., Virtual conference should be utilized for IEP. 504 meetings. Section 504 Accommodations Service Agreement accommodations will be implemented and determined on an individual basis.

Please contact the special education department at extension 2214 for more information.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS/ACADEMIC HONESTY

To ensure success in a remote learning environment, students should meet the following expectations:

- Attend scheduled virtual sessions, be on time, be attentive, and be prepared for class
- Actively participate in virtual lessons and do not cause distractions
- Respect and cooperate with teachers and other students
- Behave and dress appropriately during remote learning class sessions
- Complete assignments on time in Google Classroom

Williams Valley insists on strict standards of academic honesty in all courses. Academic honesty applies to all students in all classes (traditional and remote learning). Violations of these expectations will not be tolerated (**review handbook policy on academic honesty-page 21**).

Examples of failure to follow Academic Honesty Expectations include:

- Plagiarism: the act of passing off someone else's work as your own;
- Fabrication of data: manufacturing data for a table, chart, survey or similar requirement;