

Revised 9/30/2020

WHEATLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT 2020/21 SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN

Hello Families,

We hope this finds you and your families well during this difficult time. As you are aware these are challenging and unprecedented times for all of us. We have worked diligently to develop a plan that we believe will provide the best education possible and also keep the safety and the health of our students as a priority. When we speak of health we mean all aspects of health, which includes physical health and social emotional health of our children. We want to express our appreciation for your patience, trust, and support, as we work together, to keep everyone healthy and safe for student learning and growth.

This year has been unprecedented in many ways. As a district, we appreciate the hard work of our parents and staff to finish last school year under very trying circumstances and began this year with Distance Learning as the only option we were given. Since our closure of schools, we have been planning for our reopening with students but have not been able to achieve that goal given the new realities we have been facing. Many of our early plans had to be shelved because guidelines, expectations, funding, and the spread of COVID-19 were constantly changing. We have learned that flexibility is key in planning for the 2020-21 school year. This document represents the foundation to reopen our school year to our students given this opportunity through a waiver. The waiver is only available through TK – 6th grade but because we run a middle school we have applied for TK – 5th grade. We have yet to be notified if our waiver has been approved but we still need to make plans to reopen so when the waiver is approved we can move forward.

As we have learned from the last few months, change is inevitable, and we will continue to follow the guidelines as our school year continues. In planning for this year, we were guided by the following principles: Having a safe environment for students and staff to return to is key. Returning students to school campuses is a priority and giving teachers time to make the best education plan is essential. Of course, this is just a road map to eventually get students back on campus 5 days a week with full days. We are not there yet but we do believe we will get there at some point in the 2020/21 school year. However, there will be many decisions and changes along the way.

Moving forward in this document is the Reopening Plan that will take place in the Wheatland School District effective October 19, 2020 (pending Waiver Approval).

Thank you

Craig Guensler

Craig Guensler
Superintendent

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WELCOME BACK

School Structure Model for the 2020-21 School Year under the Waiver or the Red Tier

These plans are based on the knowns at the time of this revision and could change based on future information from the State or County

Option #1 – TK – 5th Grade (Under the Waiver & when Yuba County moves to Red Tier)

- Monday will remain a Distance Learning Day with Intervention Time
 - Distance Learning on Zoom or Google Meet – 8:00am to 9:00am
 - Optional intervention schedules set up by classroom teacher as needed
 - Independent Learning for students using teacher driven assignments
- Tuesday through Friday AM/PM School will take place with students on campuses. This schedule will allow for required social distancing in the classrooms
 - AM Classes – 8:00am to 11:00am – ½ the students will be assigned AM Schedule
 - PM Classes – 12:00pm to 3:00pm – ½ the students will be assigned PM Schedule
 - Independent Learning for students using teacher driven assignments

Options #1A – 6th – 8th Grade (Not until Yuba County moves to the Red Tier for 2 weeks)

- Monday will remain a Distance Learning day with intervention time
 - Distance Learning on Zoom or Google Meet – 8:00am to 9:00am
 - Optional Intervention schedules set up by classroom teacher as needed
 - Independent Learning for students using teacher driven assignments
- Tuesday through Friday AM/PM School will take place with students on campuses. This schedule will allow for required social distancing in the classrooms
 - AM students on campus classes – 8:00am to 11:00am – ½ the students will be assigned AM schedule – Math, Social Science and Science
 - PM students on campus classes – 12:00pm to 3:00pm – ½ the students will be assigned PM schedule – Math, Social Science and Science
 - AM students Distance Learning for Language Arts, PE and Elective – 12:00pm to 3:00pm
 - PM students Distance Learning for Language Arts, PE and Elective – 8:00am to 11:00am

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Option #2 – Home Based Independent Study

- The families that choose not to enroll in the in-school model may be given the opportunity to enroll their children in our Home-Based Independent Study Program (Pending Space Availability)
- This model will not end when state/local clearance allows for regular full day instruction
- Students currently enrolled in the District's HBIS school will be given first priority to stay in the HBIS program. If they choose to return to Option 1 they will be moved and the open spot will become available for those requesting to not return to in class schooling
- HBIS is technology-based lessons to access at family convenience. The daily commitment is approximately 3 hours per day
- Students will be required to meet either in person or virtually with the Home-based Independent Study staff daily

Preschool Plans – Preschool will be in school from 8:30 – 11:30am. Parents must sign in and sign out using the book provided. This signing must be done outside. Parents are not to enter the classrooms and are to wear a mask when dropping/picking up at door. Distance learning for preschool will not be an option at this time.

TIMELINE

August 31, 2020

First day of instruction through Distance Learning

October 1, 2020

Waiver was applied for through Yuba Sutter Health Department

October 19, 2020

Anticipated First Day of New Reopening Plan

October 20, 2020

Anticipated First Day TK – 5th grade students return to in-class instruction

TBD

First Day 6th - 8th grade Students will be back on campus

District Calendar

See District Calendar for Holidays and other specific dates

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WHEN SCHOOLS RESUME, THEY WILL LOOK DIFFERENT

Schools will reopen but students will see many changes

The health and safety of our students, staff and families is a top priority to the Wheatland School District. With in-person instruction tentatively starting on October 19, 2020 our campuses will look and feel different than what the students remember from the last time they were at school. These changes are due to the new health and safety requirements that have been imposed on School Districts from the State and Federal Governments. We will implement our safety protocols as outlined in this document and make sure we do everything we can to support learning on campus and keeping all students and staff safe. We will continue to have the Home-Based Instructional Program (space is limited) for families that choose to remain on full time Distance Learning.

HERE IS WHAT TO EXPECT

- 4 day a week of on campus instruction
- 1 day a week (1 hour) of Distance Learning
- Intervention schedules set by Classroom Teachers
- Daily at home health screenings and temperature checks prior to arrival or bus transportation completed by parents
- Arrival and Departure changes
- Added spacing between students in classrooms
- Assigned seats
- Desk partitions for each student
- Doors and windows open
- Outside classroom work when possible and practical
- Heightened education on proper hygiene practices
- No large gatherings on campuses
- Minimize the number of non-essential visitors on campus
- Upgraded cleaning practices
- Per health guidelines, face coverings will be required students and staff

DISTRICT OFFICE

The District Office is open from 7:00am to 4:00pm

SCHOOL OFFICES

The School Offices are from 7:00 – 3:30 p.m.

CLASS ASSIGNMENT

The School Site will be putting together the class assignment and selecting AM or PM. We will not be able to honor requests for a specific time frame as we are required to split the classes in half to achieve Physical Distancing. The teachers may shift from your current Distance Learning assignment due to a number of variables. Class assignments will be sent to parents once they are completed.

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FOOD SERVICE

Students will not be eating breakfast or lunch on campus as we cannot open our lunch rooms at this time. Here is the lunch schedule that will be followed

AM Students – Students will be given a lunch and a breakfast as they leave each day. The lunch is for that day and the breakfast is for the next morning. Students should eat their lunch when they get home and should eat their breakfast prior to coming to class the following day

PM Students – Students will be given a lunch and a breakfast as they leave each day. The breakfast and lunch will be for the following day. Students should eat their breakfast in the morning and their lunch prior to coming to class.

Students on HBIS and not on the school campus can pick up their food from 11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Please follow signage and remain in your car, food will be brought curbside.

All students will receive breakfast and lunch for free until December 31, 2020. After that point all students will be placed back on the normal fee for food. Those that qualify for free or reduced costs will be charged accordingly. Those that do not qualify will be charged \$2.75 for lunches.

Please complete the Meal Application online IMMEDIATELY at the link below in order to be prepared for the changes: www.ezmealapp.com

Please also understand the State and Federal Government use our Free and Reduced percentages to drive other funding. It is imperative that all families put in the application even if you do not think you qualify.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Afterschool Program is not open during this time. We will reopen the after-school program once all students are back on campuses full time daily. Under the current state guidelines, we cannot maintain proper physical distances for all students that were accepted into the program so we are unable to provide the care. If you have been notified that you have a placement in Afterschool Program, this will carry over to a time when school can re-open to full-time in person, onsite instruction. No fees will be charged until service is provided.

SOCIAL EMOTIONS NEEDS

- WSD recognizes that relationships play a huge role in social development for students. These crucial connections can better be achieved by in person learning
- WSD will work within the health and safety guidelines to provide these meaningful connections and social opportunities for our students
- Our counselors, school psychologists and nurse are available for our students and families
- Resources will be provided to our students while on campuses
- Various levels of support will be provided to help students transition back to on campus learning

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COMMUNICATION

We will maintain communication with you all as our planning evolves and takes shape. The past many months have been challenging for our community, to say the least, and there will be no shortage of challenges as we navigate the year ahead. We want to recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic has been a traumatic event in the lives of our staff, our students, and our community. As such, we should make time and space for ourselves, talk about our recent experiences with others, and be of support for one another. Please know that the school district cares deeply about the staff, the students and the families in our District and our community. We are working diligently in everyone's best interest. Our school counselors will be available for all students needing support because of COVID 19 or for any other reason.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE FROM CAMPUSES

Prior to Arrival:

Prior to each school day, families, students and staff should complete an at-home health screening assessing any COVID symptoms and ensure their temperature is below 100.4 degrees. Students and staff experiencing any symptoms and/or have a temperature above 100.4 should not come to school/work and will not be permitted to enter the campus.

When Arriving at School:

TK, Kindergarten and new families wishing to accompany their children for the first day only, may do so during a specific drop off time and location that will be designated by your child's school. All other students that walk, are dropped off or are transported by the bus should enter the campus and go directly to their classroom. Students and families are required to follow all safety procedures while on campus. Facial coverings are required for all adults while on campus. Students 3rd grade and above are also required to wear masks. Students TK – 2nd grade is highly recommended to wear mask while on campus. ALL bus riders are required to wear masks at all times on the school bus.

When Departing from School:

Specific instructions will be given by your principal. Those who are picking up in person (walking, biking or parent pick up) will be instructed to a specific pick up location. Adults picking up need to remain in their car. If they must exit the car then you will need to park in a parking spot and wear a mask.

DAILY INSTRUCTION ON CAMPUS PROTOCOLS

We understand the potential safety concerns that families may have surrounding the return of students to school. We have the following to help with the safety of our students and staff:

- We will provide desk shields for all students. These shields are clear so students can see the teacher and their peers but also gives an additional layer of protection beyond face coverings.

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- Face Masks (see more information at the end of the reopening plan) – Currently the mandate from the state is all students 3rd grade and above will be required to wear masks. Preschool through 2nd grades are highly recommended to wear face masks. All staff are required to wear facial coverings. All bus riders, regardless of age or grade, are required to wear masks at all times including while waiting for the bus.
- Face shields can be worn by all staff if they can assure physical distancing of 6 or more feet at all times. Staff will need to remain 6 feet away from students while teaching their lessons if wearing a face shield only. If a student needs one on one attention which will require the teacher to be closer then they will need to switch over to a mask.
- Student and staff face coverings must be worn anytime you are moving through the campus
- Cleaning, disinfecting the classrooms, common use rooms and our buses will be done daily.
- Hand sanitizing will be available in all classrooms - Disinfecting spray bottles with hand sanitizer will be in all classrooms for students and staff. Also, many of our rooms have sinks with soap and water
- Hand Sanitizing stations in all common use areas such as gyms, cafeterias, main office, etc.
- Bottle Fillers will be accessible but outdoor water fountains will be closed
- Disinfecting Foggers will be used by our custodians for daily disinfecting
- Disinfecting Foggers will be used on our buses for daily disinfecting
- Soap and Paper Towel Dispensers checked and stocked regularly. Soap, water and paper towels are in all bathrooms and many of our classrooms
- Health Aide hours have been increased to increase coverage during school day hours
- Classroom furniture arrangements strategically placed to improve distancing capabilities
- Classroom windows and doors open as weather permits and practical
- No outside food for birthday's and other celebrations in the classroom
- All outdoor time will be staggered or separated to physically distance students
- Volunteering will not be allowed in classrooms at this time. Parents that need to drop items off will need to drop the items at the main office

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Outside Time for Students

When we are providing students outside time during the day physical distancing will be required. During the AM/PM model there will be no scheduled recess for our students. PE will be an independent activity assigned by the teacher from TK – 5th grade. When 6th – 8th grade returns PE will remain a distance learning activity. Outside classroom time is allowed and encouraged if the lesson, weather and space available works for a site.

What Happens When a Student Becomes Sick?

The COVID-19 virus is spreading throughout our country and throughout our community. We seem to have an ever-changing environment and will likely continue to have cases until either a vaccine or some kind of immunity ends the spread altogether. As we learn more and more about the virus, we now know that our youth are least affected and generally recover quickly. We also know much more about how the disease spreads and for how long a person may be contagious. With that knowledge, we are well prepared for what to do when a student or staff member exhibits symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19. Students, staff and parents need to remember to self-screen daily. If they are sick or show symptoms of being ill, whether COVID related or not, they need to stay home and schedule an appointment with their health care provider to determine if they need to be tested.

If a student, staff member, or family member within the household tests positive for COVID-19 you should:

1. Seek medical care from your healthcare provider in accordance with CDC and County Guidelines.
2. Alert the school administration as quickly as possible to ensure the student can be provided with any school worked needed while they are in quarantine. Once the student is cleared he/she can return to their classroom.
3. Students should not come to school until they have been cleared to do so by your healthcare provider (potentially 14 days). If a family member is the one who is sick, you must follow the guidance from Public Health prior to returning to school.
4. The County Public Health is the entity that does contact tracing and will reach out to others if need be. It is a violation of HIPPA laws for the school or district to give out the information.

If a student becomes sick while at school or begins to exhibit any symptoms:

Student will be sent directly to the Health Aide Office where they will be:

- a. Evaluated by the nurse or health aide
- b. If they exhibit any signs they will go to an isolation room
- c. Parents will be contacted and will be required to pick up the student immediately
- d. Student will be recommended for testing for COVID-19
- e. School will contact public health to determine next steps
- f. Student will be asked to remain home until test results clear the student to return
- g. Positive cases will likely need to stay home for a minimum of 14 days but this is a public health determination

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- h. The school is prohibited from divulging to others if a specific student is ill or tested positive for COVID. It is a HIPPA violation. The notification will come through the health department and their contact tracers

Students sent home for exhibiting symptoms or awaiting test results will be provided school work while they are home. They will not be distance learning except on Mondays but will be given work to complete while home.

Students who were in close physical contact with any student who tests positive or exhibits symptoms will be monitored by health staff. Being in the same room with someone who was ill does NOT necessarily constitute close physical contact.

Transportation Practices and Procedures

Wheatland School District remains committed to transporting our students to and from school every day. There has been much debate about how students could be physically distanced on school buses across the country with some districts opting out of bussing altogether for this school year. Although School Districts are not required to provide bussing to students, we know that it is in their best interest to continue doing so. There is no reasonable or feasible way in which we can substantially distance students on our school buses. Parents of students that wish their child(ren) to ride the bus will be provided that option with the understanding that ALL students will need to wear masks and will likely be seated in close proximity to other students. Parents and students who are not comfortable with riding the school bus will need to transport their child. Walking to school is a good option if they live close enough to feasibly walk. If students walk in groups they need to wear masks and maintain physical distancing.

For those who do plan to continue riding the bus, we have these safety measures in place:

- Buses will be disinfected and cleaned after the morning run and the afternoon run. There will be no cleaning between AM/PM runs. If there is time (dependent on the run) the driver will use the Disinfecting Foggers to help disinfect
- Hand sanitizer will be provided on all buses
- Open windows on buses as much as practicable
- We may adjust routes to reduce more congested stops
- Face coverings are required for students and staff. In the event face coverings are encouraged but not required, face coverings will still be required on buses each day until the student arrives on campus and goes through the check-in procedure
- Any student exhibiting symptoms associated with COVID-19 will be sent directly to the Health Aide office

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- Parents should not send their child to the bus stop if they are sick or have a fever
- Temperatures may be taken on the bus and if a student has a temperature they will be seated alone and sent directly to the health office upon arrival. No student will be left at a bus stop unless the parent is present.
- We expect parents to check their children's temperature daily prior to coming to school

FACE COVERINGS & PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

In accordance with California Department of Public Health

- All students must utilize cloth face coverings (Grades 3rd and above), not face shields
 - On campus at all times when physical distancing is not possible and in the classrooms
 - During transition periods or in common areas
 - While waiting to enter campus
 - While departing from campus
 - While riding the bus
- Students grades Preschool through 2nd grade are highly encouraged to wear face coverings but are not required to wear them
 - If riding the bus, the students must wear a face mask
 - The District HIGHLY recommends they wear coverings
 - On campus at all times when physical distancing is not possible
 - During transition periods or in common areas
 - While waiting to enter campus
 - While departing from campus
- Face coverings will be provided to staff and students if they do not have one when arriving to campus
- Personal face coverings will be allowed in compliance with the school's dress code policy
- Teachers and staff may use a transparent face shield with a drape (Distance of 6 feet applies)
- Students may wear face shields only when exempt from wearing a cloth face covering
- The following individuals are exempt from wearing a face covering and an alternative will be offered:
 - Persons age two years or younger
 - Persons with a verified medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents them from using a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or are otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance

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- Persons who are hearing impaired or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication
- Persons for whom wearing a face covering could create a risk to the person related to work/school, as determined by local, state or federal regulators or safety guidelines
- Gloves are not recommended for use by students and staff, with the exception of conducting cleaning, first aid, or food service

PROMOTING HYGIENE PRACTICES

General Practices

- Reinforce guidelines for bathroom use to limit congestion
- Restrict the use of drinking fountains
- Water bottle filling stations are available at each school
- All classrooms, offices and common areas will have hand sanitizer readily available
- Sites have posted signage, reminding students and staff of health protocols including physical distancing

Handwashing & Sanitizing

- Students should wash or sanitize hands upon arriving at school and when entering different classrooms/common areas
- Students should wash or sanitize hands prior to consumption of foods
- Encourage frequent hand washing or use of hand sanitizer
- Students will be trained on proper hygiene practices, including hand washing for at least 20 seconds, not touching face with unwashed hands, covering mouth when coughing or sneezing
- Classrooms will have hand sanitizers or hand sanitizer dispensers

Cleaning & Disinfecting

- The district will engage in frequent, daily cleaning of common areas, classrooms and frequently touched surfaces
- Common classroom surfaces will be cleaned regularly throughout the day where feasible and at the end of each school day
- Outside equipment will be sanitized daily and throughout the day where feasible
- Cleaning and sanitation supplies will be made available in the event a teacher desires to perform additional classroom cleaning/sanitizing
- Cleaning and disinfecting guidelines have been established to ensure safe and correct application of disinfectant and to keep products away from children's reach

Ventilation

- Air filtration systems will be enhanced and serviced in accordance with the manufacturer recommendations

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- GPS Bipolar Ionization Systems have been ordered and will be installed the last week of September
- All Classrooms have their own individual HVAC Systems so not sharing with others is required
- Maximum outside air will be introduced to the classroom based on technology and comfort issues where feasible
- As weather conditions allow, windows and doors should be left open for increased ventilation and fresh air
- Windows should be left open on buses during transport. This may mean it is hotter or colder on the bus than what would otherwise have been outside of the pandemic