We are preparing to return to school in a traditional format for the 2020-2021 school year. The Board of Education will meet next week to approve adjusting the student start date to August 20th. School employees will use this time to prepare for the challenges of the upcoming school year. In an effort for all students to remain safe and learn, we will be offering different pathways of learning. Each family may request the learning pathway that best suits their child's needs and learning styles. Students will have the option of traditional school or virtual school. Students in grades 7-12 will also have an option for a blended schedule. WPS will continue to monitor community spread and adjust this plan accordingly. As we navigate through these ever changing times, we are very appreciative of your patience and support.
For the 2020-2021 school year, each family will have a choice for their child’s pathway of learning. Pending board approval, we will move the student start date back to August 20th. In the event the number of COVID cases rise, we will work with our local health department and hospital to determine if school closure is necessary. If school closure is necessary, distance learning will be implemented.

It is important that all families partner with us in monitoring the health of your students and families. We ask that temperatures be taken on a daily basis at home. No student with a temperature of 100.5 degrees or higher may enter any WPS facility. It is imperative for the health and safety of all students and staff that students stay home on days they have a fever or any symptoms of illness. As always, be sure to call the front office to report your child’s absence.

WPS will make every effort to promote healthy practices and protocols. Social distancing will be encouraged when possible. Masks will not be required but are highly recommended for all staff and students. The State Board of Education will have a meeting on Thursday, July 23rd to determine if students and staff in all Oklahoma schools will be mandated to wear masks. This decision/discussion could be based on local or county infection rates. Our staff will monitor reportable illnesses. CDC guidances will be utilized for quarantine. WPS will follow county, city, and state mandates. Requirements and recommendations are subject to change.

Cleaning and disinfecting frequency will increase. Commonly touched surfaces will be cleaned frequently. Cleaners and disinfectants that are EPA-approved for use against COVID-19 will be used. Frequent hand-washing and other healthy protocols will be implemented and practiced.

Visitors will be allowed in the building on a very limited basis as approved by the building principal. Visitors will be required to wear a facemask in school buildings during the normal hours. Depending upon the level of community spread within the school district, buildings and facilities may be closed to outside groups and activities to reduce potential spread.

The social-emotional well-being of our students is as important as their academic learning. Our AWARE team along with our site counselors will be prepared and available to help our students and families.

WPS plans to resume traditional transportation. Masks are required for all students, drivers, and monitors due to close proximity of students. We are encouraging parents to pick-up and drop-off their children if possible. If there is a shortage of bus drivers due to COVID, the district may need to reduce the number of bus routes.

*Due to COVID-19, lack of drivers, and the safety of all involved, shuttle buses will not be provided this year.
MONITORING OF SYMPTOMS

*Based on CDC Guidelines

- Staff members will be expected to screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to work each day.

- Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their students to school.

- People with COVID-19 have reported a variety of symptoms—ranging from mild to severe. Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Families should monitor children and should not send children to school if they have one or more of the following symptoms.

  - Fever
  - Chills
  - Headache
  - Loss of smell or taste
  - Sore Throat
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Shortness of Breath
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Diarrhea
  - Congestion or runny nose

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19.

- If a student begins displaying COVID-19 symptoms at school, he/she should report to the office immediately. Parents will be contacted to pick-up their child as soon as possible.

COVID-19 Protocols

Employee or students suspected or known to have contracted COVID-19 and has exhibited symptoms

Return to school when ALL of the following conditions have been met:

- 3 days without fever
- Symptoms are no longer present
- Release from the doctor

An employee or student has known close contact (Closer than 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes) with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19

Return to school when a 14-Day quarantine or other action as determined by school administrators through consultation with the Department of Health is completed.

A positive diagnosis does not necessarily mean shutting down a school site or the entire district. Working with health officials will mean completing contact tracing and possibly suggesting students to be tested. Because of changing and uncertain conditions, students, parents, and staff should be prepared for transition to distance learning at any time.
Option 1: Traditional - Distance Learning

**On-Campus Instruction**
- All courses/classes taken at regularly assigned school site
- In-person instruction
- Traditional academic school day
- Schoology Learning Management System (LMS) will be used in coordination with on-campus instruction
- Transition as needed between in-class and distance learning

**Distance Learning Days**
- Determined by the district, city, or state in the event of an outbreak*

- Can be utilized by individual families in the event of student exposure/illness resulting in quarantine
- Counts as a school day (not a traditional absence if student completes online lessons within the allotted time)
- Virtual coursework via Schoology LMS
- Students continue to learn new material with teacher support
- Opportunities for students to collaborate and learn by interacting virtually with peers/teachers
- May include pre-recorded or live lessons/tutorials
- Regular support and contact from WPS teachers until on-campus class can resume

Option 2: Full Virtual

- Student take all courses online via Edgenuity away from campus
- Requires semester commitment
- Student learning plans are directed and monitored by Weatherford teachers
- Classes do not require regular on-campus attendance
- Application process required

Option 3: Blended

- Option for Grades 7-12 only
- At least one elective course is taken on campus; core classes are taken virtually
- Students report through Eagle Virtual Academy
- Requires semester commitment
- Student learning plans are directed and monitored by Weatherford teachers
- Transportation will only be offered during regular a.m. and p.m. routes.
- Application process required

*In addition to potential school closures due to COVID-19, these 2 options may be used as distance learning days in the event of cancellations including, but not limited to, inclement weather or other unforeseen factors.*
What is virtual learning?
A virtual learning program means the student takes all of his/her courses in a virtual setting away from the school. Students take all courses on-line via Edgenuity, away from campus. Tutoring, assistance and assessments will be given at an agreed upon location, but no classes require regular physical attendance. The virtual learning option is a minimum of a one semester commitment. Virtual learning is offered K-12. Apply online at the wpsok.org by July 31st.

What is blended learning?
A blended learning program "blends" traditional classes with virtual classes offered to student beginning the 7th grade. A "blended learner" is enrolled in both traditional and virtual courses. If eligible, the student will work from home on their virtual lessons, but at least one elective is taken at school in a traditional classroom. The blended learning option is a minimum of a one semester commitment. Transportation is only provided at regular route times. Transportation throughout the school day will be the responsibility of the parent or student.

Do I have to live in the district to apply for a learning pathway?
Yes.

How do I enroll my child in traditional learning for the upcoming school year?
You are automatically enrolled in WPS if you are a returning student. You will be receiving an e-mail with enrollment forms and information to complete enrollment online.

How do I enroll my student in virtual/blended learning?
If interested in the virtual/blended option, an application and informational meeting must be completed and finalized. Please go to wpsok.org for the virtual school application. Applications are due July 31st.

What transportation will be offered for students who choose the virtual learning pathway?
Transportation will only be offered during the regular a.m. and p.m. routes. Transportation throughout the school day will be the responsibility of the parent or student.

What is Edgenuity?
Edgenuity is a content management system that provides an online/digital learning curriculum for students who wish to learn in a full-time virtual classroom setting.
What is Schoology?
Schoology is a learning management system/portal where students will access their assignments, communication, and grades. The system streamlines all the digital tools and content that teachers and students use, for a simpler, more connected, learning experience.

When will we use distance learning?
Distance learning will be used when school is closed due to COVID, inclement weather, or other unforeseen circumstances. Distance learning days may be added to the regular school calendar in an effort to prepare students and staff for longer school closures.

Will all athletics, electives, and fine arts classes continue to be offered at all current levels, and will there be any restrictions?
Depending on the level of community spread, all athletics and activities will continue as planned with extra measures taken to ensure the safety of students and staff. Additional measures may be implemented as needed.

Will the school district calendar change for 2020-2021?
Pending board approval, the first day of school for students is August 20th. This will allow for school staff to prepare for some of the challenges we are facing currently. It is our goal for all other calendar dates to stay the same, however, the district may schedule distance learning days within the school dates that already exist.

When is Enrollment/Schedule Pick-up Day?
Events such as Back to School Night, Meet the Teacher, and Schedule Pick-Up will be significantly altered due to the pandemic. Each one of these events will occur at the discretion of each WPS site. Please continue to check your email, your child's school website, social media pages, and other communication methods for the very latest school-specific information on events and activities.

Where will the information come from regarding the number of cases for community spread?
WPS will monitor the number of COVID cases in our community through the Oklahoma State Health Department. WPS will follow any mandates set forth from the county, city or state.

What will be used for hand sanitizing?
WPS will have hand sanitizer stations at main entries, hand sanitizer in classrooms, lunchrooms, and on school busses. We will also teach and encourage proper hand washing and hygiene.
Why will temperatures not be taken upon entering the school building?
Entering the school building is not the first contact for many students. A student’s first contact may be at the bus stops, early morning activities, car pools, before school daycare, parking lots, etc. Temperatures can be an indicator of a variety of illnesses and is not necessarily the first indicator of COVID. WPS has always asked that students remain home if they have a temperature without medicine. We need our parents to partner with us in order to keep all children and staff safe by self regulating symptoms and temperature checks.

If masks were in the “recommendation” phase, would there be times our student(s) would be “required” to wear a mask?
There may be certain staff members who are considered in the vulnerable population. The teacher or school site may ask the students in a particular class to wear masks in an effort to allow that staff member the ability to come to work and teach as well as keep that staff member as safe as possible.

How can I help the school as a parent?
- Donations of hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, masks, no touch thermometers, and additional school supplies would be helpful at each site.
- Taking your child’s temperature on a daily basis prior to them leaving the house.
- Keeping students home if they exhibit any symptoms of any illness.
- Keeping students quarantined for 14 days if they have had any exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID.
- Preparing your home and child with supplies and devices for remote learning if possible and feasible.
- Letting your child’s teacher or school know if you need assistance with internet access, devices, or meals.
- Having masks or other appropriate face coverings available for students to have at school if needed.
- Openly communicating any concerns directly with your child’s teacher or school site.
- Encouraging your child to wear a mask, if feasible, to assist in protecting our staff who may be in the vulnerable population.
- Working with the school site as they change visitor protocols and the check in/check out processes as warranted.

Additional practices to be implemented:
- Requesting that students use their own school supplies and share as little as possible
- Requesting that students bring their own water bottle and not use water fountains in a traditional way. Water fountains will be available for bottle refills.
As we navigate through these ever-changing times, the committee is appreciative of the patience and support provided by our parents and community.