

Warren Consolidated Schools



A Parent's Guide to Learning at Home

April—June 2020



WCSKIDS.NET

Introduction

In these unprecedented times, brought to us by the Covid-19 pandemic, many businesses and service organizations are working hard to respond to the demands of this crisis. A recent news story highlighted Ford Motor Company's use of fans from their popular F-150s in their production of ventilators to support sick patients. Grocery stores have altered checkout procedures to limit the spread of germs. Churches have transitioned to live streaming services.

Governor Whitmer's decision to close school for three weeks beginning in March was followed by her Executive Order, issued on April 2, which brought an end to in-person instruction for the school year. These decisions, made by the Governor to ensure the safety of children in our state, has required our district to be flexible and respond to the demands of the current crisis, caused by the largest pandemic our area has seen in the last 100 years. While kids cannot come to our buildings, education can, and should continue. Working together, the staff of Warren Consolidated Schools is committed to keeping in contact with you and supporting your child.

We will never completely replicate the academic setting our schools provide. However, we can offer learning opportunities, connections, and support. This parent's guide is meant to offer you information, suggestions, and communication protocols as you partner with our district to continue your child's education.

Please know that we miss all of our WCS students and families, and we look forward to the day when we can open our doors and welcome your children back to school.

This document is the next step in a journey that began in our community on March 12 with the Governor's initial announcement to close schools for 3 weeks. Many questions remain unanswered, such as when students will clean out lockers, summer learning opportunities, commencement, and other important events. While we await the next steps from the state once the stay in place order is lifted, our focus is on helping students academically over the next two months.



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Core Principles of this Plan

While these are unprecedented times, and our district is functioning in a way that is much different from our traditional day-to-day operations, some of the core values of our district remain in place:

Relationships

Our top priority is connecting and maintaining relationships with students and families. A key component of what we must strive for is the collective well-being of our community. Currently, the emotional needs of people are enormous, and educators have a key role in supporting children through these times. Part of our work will simply look like your teacher “checking in,” letting your child know he/she is thinking about him/her. Key work for our staff during this period will be maintaining positive relationships. We’re focused on making sure we don’t lose the most important component for student success – positive mindset/positive relationship with their school.

High Expectations

Structure is key for students. Having a routine and set schedule, supported by materials from our teachers will help you as a parent provide key structures for students to continue learning. Our district recommendation is for students to read, write, complete some math practice, do something creative, and be active every day.

Focus on Learning

Beginning the week of April 14th, parents should expect to receive weekly academic activities directly from their teachers using a variety of methods to connect with students. Our Curriculum Team has worked to develop documents with the most important state standards for our students to cover between now and June, which will drive the curriculum our teachers offer. Your support in ensuring your child maintains a daily routine with the work teachers send you will go a long way to ensuring student learning continues.

District Calendar

We will be adhering to the traditional calendar during this remote learning time, so you may not hear from teachers, or have activities for these days:

- **April 14**—Classes resume
- **May 22**—K-12 half day
- **May 25**—NO SCHOOL; Memorial Day
- **May 26**—Classes resume
- **May 29**—Last day for Seniors
- **June 11**—Last day of school for students and staff

Communication is Key

Much like our core values, the communication practices of our district remain intact during this unprecedented time.

You can count on our district to keep you informed of what is happening at the state level and how it impacts our schools. Through our normal communication channels, such as letters, our district website www.wcskids.net, and our social media platforms, we will continue to stay in touch.

Your child's school is your hub for this plan. Direct questions to your child's teacher and/or principal. Teachers know best where to continue the education of your children. To that end, you will receive regular communication from your principal and your teachers about day to day learning activities and offerings from your school.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, start with your child's teacher. Teacher contact information is available through our "staff directory" on each school's website, and through Power School.

If you have a concern that you have not heard from your child's teacher, please contact your principal. On the next page, you will see a breakdown, by level, of their contact information.



School Contact Information

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS			
School	Administrator Name	Email Address	Office Number
Black Elementary School	Khris Nedam	knedam@wcskids.net	586-825-2840
Cromie Elementary School	Jack Stanton	jstanton@wcskids.net	586-574-3160
Green Acres Elementary School	Stacey Leavell	sleavell@wcskids.net	586-825-2890
Harwood Elementary School	Jason Clark	Clark@wcskids.net	586-825-2650
Holden Elementary School	Cheryl Priemer	Priemer@wcskids.net	586-825-2670
Jefferson Elementary School	Keith Karpinski	Kkarpinski@wcskids.net	586-825-2680
Lean Elementary School	Kerry Keener	Kkeener@wcskids.net	586-574-3230
Siersma Elementary School	Corey Tremmel	Ctremmel@wcskids.net	586-574-3174
Susick Elementary School	Michele Babbish	Mbabbish@wcskids.net	586-825-2665
Wilde Elementary School	Matt Guinn	Mguinn@wcskids.net	586-294-8490
Wilkerson Elementary School	Anthony Viviano	aviviano@wcskids.net	586-825-2550
Willow Woods Elementary School	Vera Ivezaj	Vivezaj@wcskids.net	586-825-2850
MIDDLE SCHOOLS			
School	Administrator Name	Email Address	Office Number
Beer Middle School	Robin Stanton	Rstanton@wcskids.net	586-574-3175
Carleton Middle School	Eric Kausch	ekausch@wcskids.net	586-825-2590
Carter Middle School	Amy Hendry	Hendrya@wcskids.net	586-825-2620
Grissom Middle School	Elizabeth Iljoski	Eljoski@wcskids.net	586-825-2560
Butcher Educational Center	Catherine Neuhoff	Cfealaneuhoff@wcskids.net	586-574-3171
HIGH SCHOOLS			
School	Administrator Name	Email Address	Office Number
Cousino High School	Brad Perkins	Bperkins@wcskids.net	586-574-3100
Sterling Heights High School	Craig Miller	cmiller@wcskids.net	586-825-2700
Warren Mott High School	Dave Meengs	meengs@wcskids.net	586-574-3250
Butcher Educational Center	Catherine Neuhoff	Cfealaneuhoff@wcskids.net	586-574-3171
Career Prep Center	Carlie McClenathan	CMcClenathan@wcskids.net	586-825-2800
Community High School	Cathy West	cwest@wcskids.net	586-825-2900

What will Instruction look like between now and June?

Beginning the week of April 14th, parents should expect to receive weekly academic activities directly from their teachers. Teachers will use a variety of methods to connect with students on a weekly basis.

Time:

After reviewing Remote Learning plans from Illinois, Kansas, and Ohio, along with consultation from school leaders in the state of Washington, and based on recommendations from the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators Association, the approximate amount of time we are recommending students should spend on academic daily activities is:

Elementary School:

- Pre-K: 30 minutes
- K-1st: 45 minutes
- 2nd-3rd: 60 minutes
- 4th-5th: 90 minutes

Middle School:

- 6th-8th: 30 minutes, per teacher

High School:

- 9th-12th: 30 minutes, per teacher

Grading:

The Governor's order that students who were "on pace when school was closed" prohibits us from penalizing students for not participating in these activities. While formal grading is not an option at this time, you can expect to receive feedback from your teacher. If students sent completed work to teachers, they will review it, and will offer a response.

The timing of the closure of school, in the midst of a quarter/trimester, has created many questions for parents and students about grading, particularly at the high school level. We're awaiting further guidance from the state, the Macomb Intermediate School District, and the Macomb County Principal's Association on these issues. Our goal is to both be flexible and fair with all students, and we will have further information soon.

What will Instruction look like between now and June?

Language Acquisition Education:

Warren Consolidated Schools provides English as a Second Language (ESL) supports from our Language Acquisition Department. Students receiving ESL support will receive contact from their Language Acquisition Teacher. This contact will provide additional encouragement and support activities to practice language and literacy skills based on student needs.

Title I Support:

Title I teachers will work with building staff to find the best ways to continue to support the students they have been working with. This includes: reaching out to students with encouragement, support and enrichment activities, working with grade level teachers to provide appropriate enrichment activities, and providing feedback to students as they work on math, reading and writing activities.

Special Education:

Our Special Education Department was in contact with families to give an outline of the supports during the initial closure of school. More information will be forthcoming, but, in the meantime, families should expect to hear from student's service providers about how to best make progress toward a child's IEP goals.



What about School Supports?

Technology Access:

- Access for our community is a key component to our plan. To that end, a community survey was sent on April 9 to help us determine how to best support our families.
- The Children’s Internet Protection Act requires that if the district assigns laptops for student home use, the device must have internet safe filtering purchased and installed. District devices are compliant when on the WCS network, however, we cannot currently control URL filtering on private home networks. We are continuing to research options for future home use student devices.
- In some cases, we recognize that some families may prefer a paper packet to electronic resources for schoolwork. We will work hard to provide these resources directly to you. Please contact your child’s teacher/principal to find out more details about how to receive a packet.

Counseling Support:

- School counselors are available to provide resources and support to students and families during this challenging time. Visit your school’s website to find the email address for your child’s counselor.

Nutrition Services:

- Our district will continue to offer food assistance through our Nutrition Service Department, and in partnership with Gleaners Food Bank. Meal distribution will occur in a “drive-through” style pickup line. Weekly distribution dates are posted on our website.

As a parent, what can I do?

Warren Consolidated Schools is committed to serving your student via remote learning. Our caring and committed staff will communicate regularly. Parents can assist staff and support student learning as follows:

- Engage in the weekly contact with the teacher
- Participate in the daily activities with your child
- Read daily with your child, or ensure your child is reading daily
- Establish a daily routine (be sure to include meals, snacks, and quiet time)
- Encourage your child to practice writing
- Encourage your child to stay active

As a parent, you know your child best. If you need help or support, please contact us and let us know how we can help.

While the materials you receive from your teachers should be more than sufficient, if you find yourself looking for additional activities to fill up time during the day, our district “Learn at Home” links will continue to offer resources. These links may be found at www.wcskids.net/LearnAtHome.



Frequently Asked Questions

Why did the Governor close schools across the state?

- The Governor stated she closed schools across the state through the end of the school year “To take the necessary steps to protect our kids, our families, and our overall public health.”
- This is an attempt to slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

What about Extra Curricular Activities?

- Sports, performances, clubs, and school sponsored activities are all canceled/postponed at this time.

Now that school is closed, how will my child get their possessions?

- Currently, the Governor’s “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order is still in place. Once that is lifted, we will communicate a plan for students to come and pick up their belongings.

My child’s medication is still at school and we need it, what can we do?

- If your child still has medication that is still at school, and you need to pick it up, please email your principal directly.

My son/daughter has an IEP, how does all of this impact him/her?

- Families were sent letters with an update and contact information during the week of March 23. If you did not receive your letter, please email Info@wcskids.net.

My child is a senior in high school, how will this impact him/her? When will we know about the prom? What about Senior Lawn Signs?

- Our district recognizes how important senior milestones such as prom, convocation, and graduation are for students and their families. As has been our practice, we will continue to follow the Governor’s executive orders regarding future activities and CDC/Health Department recommendations and will continue to monitor/communicate with families about events.
- As soon as we know the state’s recommendations for events with crowds occurring in late May, we will make determinations about prom and convocation and notify the community. We will follow a similar practice for graduation, which is scheduled for June 2 (Community High School) and June 6 (Cousino, Sterling Heights, and Warren Mott).

Frequently Asked Questions

- We're also aware of the desire for students to pick up yearbooks, caps and gowns, as well as other items for seniors. We have not forgotten, are working on solutions, and will communicate them once we know the state's recommendations on crowd size.

Can the district issue laptops to families?

- Not at this time. The Children's Internet Protection Act requires that if the district assigns laptops for student home use, the device must have internet safe filtering purchased and installed. District devices are compliant when on the WCS network, however, we cannot currently control URL filtering on private home networks. We are researching options for future home use student devices.

Is registration being accepted during this time?

- Effective Tuesday, March 16, at 4:30 pm, the Administration Building will be closed to the public. No registrations will be accepted at this time. If you need registration information or have questions, please contact our Director of Pupil Accounting, Kelly Dumas, at kdumas@wcskids.net, or at (586) 698-4193. Please keep an eye on our website for further information.

My child was scheduled to be tested to help us determine if Transitional Kindergarten was the right place for him/her. Is this still going to happen?

- Our goal is to resume testing for TK as soon as the Governor allows us to resume operations. We will communicate this information as soon as we are able to.

My child is in 8th/5th grade, and I was going to apply to have them attend a high/middle school other than the one we are assigned. How can I do this?

- Open Enrollment forms are available [at this link](#). Please note that the staff who generally handles these requests are not in due to the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order from the Governor, so processing these requests will take some time.

My child is a junior in high school, what about the SAT?

The SAT scheduled for April has been canceled. We are working on a plan now to offer the SAT exam in our schools for current juniors next fall when school reopens.

Frequently Asked Questions

My child was scheduled to take an AP exam, what do I do?

- The College Board has released the revised testing schedule and some important updates for students who were planning to test this spring. You can find that information here: https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/news-changes/coronavirus-update?SFMC_cid=EM288604-&rid=47701167
- Email your child's teacher or principal if you have additional questions or wish to request a refund by April 30, 2020 if your child no longer wants to take the exam.

My child is a high school student, how will this impact his/her grade point average?

- Our district is working on a plan to respond to the guidance provided by the Governor's Executive Order.

Will my child be promoted to the next grade level?

- The Governor's order does not allow students to be penalized for not participating in on-going learning activities from their school during this time. Per the order, students who were "on pace" to be promoted when school was closed will be promoted.

I'm concerned my child is not receiving daily work from teachers, while children in other districts are taking tests and quizzes to keep up on their school work.

- We continue to encourage students to visit our available resources. Please watch for an announcement from Dr. Livernois about our additional plans, which will roll out the week of April 14, 2020.

Are other resources also available?

- Many schools sent home practice activities for students to continue learning. In addition, our district is maintaining a website: <http://www.wcskids.net/Departments/Curriculum/LearningAtHome/index.html> with many options for all students PreK-12.

Are these learning activities, sent home by my child's school or available on this website mandatory?

- No, these are not mandatory activities, they are only options for students to continue their learning while schools are closed.

Frequently Asked Questions

My child was in the process of applying for NHS or another student organization/honor society when schools were closed. Will that resume?

- Yes. When we open schools, we will resume operations, including things that were going on prior to our closure.

When does school resume?

- We will continue to monitor Executive Orders from the Governor which will determine when school can resume.

During the lockdown will schools be installing 5G? This is rumored and very disturbing.

- This is only a rumor. WCS is not currently installing 5g in any buildings. Additionally, the district does not have any current plans to do so.

What should I be doing at home to keep my child safe?

- Maintaining germ prevention strategies with your child, such as:
- Frequent and proper hand washing.
- Encouraging coughing and sneezing into a tissue or, if a tissue isn't available, onto their sleeve.
- Discourage your child from covering their mouth with their hands while coughing or sneezing because this will leave germs on their hands that can be spread by touching other people or objects.

What should I do if my child is sick?

- Stay calm.
- Call your doctor. Your doctor knows your child's medical history and will know if your child has any special health risks. The doctor will ask how your child is doing and if they've been around someone with coronavirus. Your doctor's office will tell you what to do next and whether you need an in-person visit.

What is happening in my child's building while school is not in session?

- While schools are not in session WCS custodians will remain in each building to perform a deep clean of the school. No activities will be permitted within the buildings during this time and outside visitors will be allowed only for special circumstances (mainly necessary contractors).

Frequently Asked Questions

How will refunds/ongoing payments for things such as student activities and field trips work?

- The best person to assist you with information about student trip rescheduling/cancellations, payments, and refunds is your trip sponsor/building principal. Please contact them via email to get the information you need.
- Should you send an email and not get a response, please contact Info@wcskids.net

What does “deep cleaning a school” entail?

- Custodians will disinfect surfaces including desktops, counters and tables. The team will also disinfect areas that are frequently touched including door handles, sink faucets, drinking fountains and light switches. All bathrooms, floors, kitchens will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Should the district elect to use a spray-type disinfectant throughout the district, what considerations, if any, will be given to asthmatic students who may be susceptible to irritation caused by airborne cleaning particulates?

- Most cleaning products used by the district are identical to off the shelf cleaning products found in most homes. The district has compiled a list of all potential irritants, which may be found at <http://wcs.mi.safeschoolssds.com/>. Please consult with your child’s physician regarding concerns related to exposure of chemicals.

My child rides the bus, what is happening with district transportation when school is not in session?

- The WCS Transportation Department is using disinfectant wipes on all bus seats and handrails. An electrostatic disinfectant spray will be used on selected areas as needed to sanitize school busses.

Will any nutrition services programs be available to my child while school is closed?

- Our district will continue to offer food assistance through our Nutrition Service Department, and in partnership with Gleaners Food Bank. Meal distribution will occur in a “drive-through” style pickup line. Weekly distribution dates are posted on our website.