



Warren Consolidated Schools

Creating Dynamic Futures through Student Achievement, High Expectations, and Strong Relationships

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www.wcskids.net

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

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Superintendent

May 5, 2021

Dear WCS Community,

As we prepare to close the 2020-21 school year, I want to provide you some important information about next year to help with your planning, including the school calendar and structure of the school day.

Our plan is to return to in-person learning, full time just like we had before the pandemic, while continuing to follow appropriate health department guidelines. To support interested students, we also will offer a K-12 virtual academy separate from our traditional in-person program. Enclosed with this letter is a Parent's Guide to the WCS Virtual Academy if you are interested.

I also have included the 2021-22 school calendar, which is also available at wcskids.net. Please note our first day of school is before Labor Day on Tuesday, August 31, 2021, with a half-day in the morning for all students. I encourage you to review the calendar as we have made some important changes to half-days, holidays, and other important times of year.

Finally, we continue to see a low number of COVID cases throughout our schools, which shows that our students and staff are doing a great job following the safety protocols. Here the case counts since my last update.

Beer Middle – 2 students	Harwood Elementary – 2 students
Black Elementary – 1 student	Jefferson Elementary – 1 student
Carleton Middle – 1 student	Lean Elementary – 1 student
Carter Middle – 2 students	Siersma Elementary – 2 students
Community High – 2 students	Sterling Heights High – 3 students
Cousino High – 2 students	Sterling Heights High/Career Prep – 3 students
Cousino High/Butcher Educational – 1 student	Warren Mott High – 2 students
Cousino High/Career Prep – 3 students	Warren Mott High/Career Prep – 2 students
Green Acres Elementary – 1 student	Wilde Elementary – 1 student
Grissom Middle – 1 student	Wilde Elementary – 1 staff

Please continue to review with your child that facial coverings, over the mouth and nose, are required in our schools and ALL Warren Consolidated Schools property, including school buses and outdoor venues. We continue to monitor recommended changes regarding mask wearing, and I will update you accordingly very soon.

Please continue to stay safe and be healthy.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Livernois, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Warren Consolidated Schools



A Parent's Guide to the WCS Virtual Academy

2021-2022 School Year



WCSKIDS.NET

A Message from the Superintendent

To support families who may still be interested in a virtual learning option for next year, Warren Consolidated Schools is accepting applications from families who may still want to learn from home next year. Although WCS will be back to in-person learning full-time next year, we understand that some families may need a virtual option. An important change for next year is the virtual academy will be a full day of school, five days per week with a full schedule for students at all grade levels.

We understand how challenging the pandemic has been for students and families for many different reasons, and we believe that a virtual option is necessary.

Sincerely,
Robert D. Livernois, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Introduction

As we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, Warren Consolidated Schools is proud to offer a Virtual Academy to students, taught by our very own highly qualified WCS teachers. While our goal is to return students to in-person classroom routines in a safe manner, we realize not all families are or will be comfortable returning to school at this time and would like a virtual option. This document provides an overview of our plans for virtual learning.

Key Assumptions in our Planning

As we worked on our plans for the 2021-2022 school year, several key assumptions were made, including:

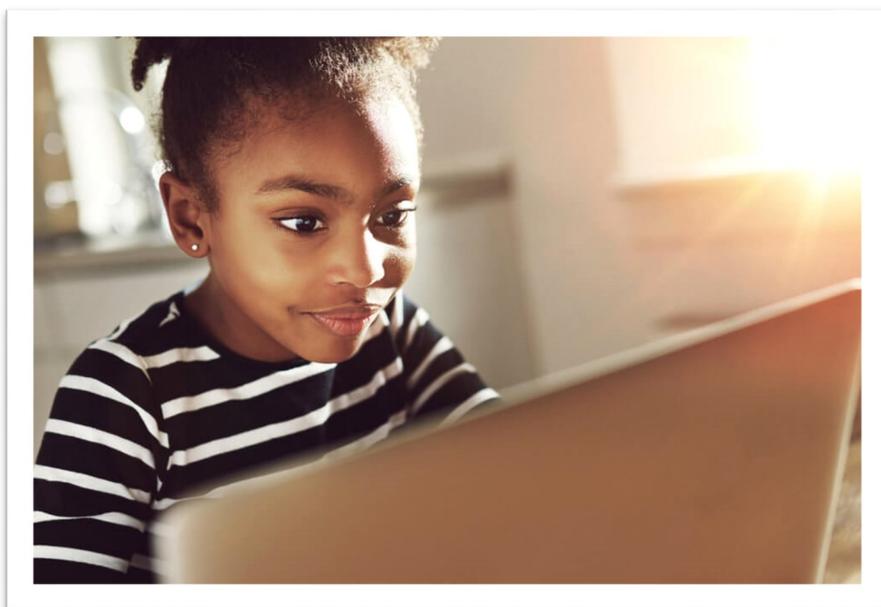
- There will still be COVID-19 cases in the fall of 2021 in Michigan, and specifically, in Macomb County.
- People will continue to be vaccinated, which could impact the need to quarantine after an exposure. However, our plan assumes there will still be mandatory quarantines next fall.
- We believe the State of Michigan, Pupil Accounting Manual, which governs our operations, will return to the 2019/2020 rules (180 days, 1098 hours of instruction).
- With updated CDC guidelines, students who want to return to school in-person will be able to do so, five days per week.
- Some families will not be fully comfortable sending their children to school in-person, requiring a virtual option.

State Requirements

Students must be registered, enrolled, and taught by a certified teacher for 180 school days and for 1,098 hours of instructional time. Teachers are responsible to take attendance daily, as they would in a traditional school. For High School students, grades and earned credit will be recorded on the pupil's transcript.

District Requirements

Students must enroll in our virtual program for a minimum of one semester/trimester. Some WCS programs (CPC, WCSPA, MSVPA, MS2TC, MMSTC, and Transitional Kindergarten) are structured to be taught in person, have limited staff available to them, and are not available on a virtual platform. Students who hold seats in these programs who choose the virtual academy will not lose their spots. As is always the case in our schools, courses students express interest in may not necessarily be available in the event there is not enough enrollment in a course. A hybrid/part-time option is not available at this time. Students are expected to adhere to our district Acceptable Use Policy for Technology.



Schedule

WCS will follow our published school calendar for the 21/22 school year, which includes full day instruction Monday through Friday, with the exception of our previously scheduled half days. A typical day for a student would be balanced between virtual instruction from a teacher and independent practice on learning activities. Below, you will see what a day in the life of a student might look like:

A Sample Elementary (K-5) Virtual Learning Day	
8:00 am – 8:15	Teacher and Student Set up Time- log on to Schoology, review any daily announcements from teacher, organize learning space, optional morning meeting
8:15 – 10:15	ELA instruction- incorporates whole group instruction, small group instruction, transition times and independent student work time, embed Social Studies & Science literacy content
10:15 – 10:30	A.M. Student Recess, Brain Break, Movement
10:30 – 11:30	Lunch/Recess, Brain Break, Movement/Independent Reading Time
11:30 – 1:00	Math instruction- incorporates whole group instruction, small group instruction, transition times and independent student work time
1:00 – 1:45	Teacher Prep/Student Elective- live instruction or recorded video
1:45 – 2:00	P.M. Student Recess, Brain Break, Movement
2:00 – 3:00	Science or Social Studies instruction or time for student support services

A Sample Secondary (6-12) Virtual Learning Day	
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Math
9:10 am – 10:10 am	ELA
10:20 – 11:20	Social Studies
11:20 – 12:00	Lunch/Break
12:00 – 1:00	Science
1:10 – 2:10	Elective 1
2:20 – 3:20	Elective 2

Special Education/504/ Students Needing Additional Support

Students who receive special education services ARE eligible to register and take classes through our virtual academy.

Our district must determine, for each Special Education student, how we provide “Free and Appropriate Public Education” (FAPE) services.

Our district would determine through the IEP process, whether, with special education related and supplemental services, the virtual program can provide the student’s FAPE services.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Students enrolled in our Virtual Academy will have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities at their home schools. For that reason, families should expect their child’s virtual schedule to match the time schedule of their home schools.

Staffing

The WCS virtual program will be staffed by district teachers who will deliver our district curriculum.

Technology Platform

Schoology will continue to serve as our virtual learning hub. Using Schoology allows parents to log into a single site and have access to all of their student’s coursework information, regardless of how many children they have. WebEx, a premium, secure, video conferencing service, will be another platform available for teacher/student interactions.

Role of Parents

Parents are vital supports to their children’s learning in a virtual environment and should be prepared to assist their students in logging on and monitoring their time spent on school work.

Enrollment

To ensure proper staffing our program, interested families need to register for our Virtual Academy between April 26 and May 21. Enroll by using our virtual academy form that follows.





Warren Consolidated Schools
Open Enrollment/Transfer to **Virtual Academy**
Within the District

Student's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP Code: _____ Phone: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

School Presently Attending: _____ Grade: _____

School Scheduled to Attend Next Year: _____ Grade: _____

School to Which Transfer is Requested: **VIRTUAL ACADEMY** Grade: _____

Reason for Transfer Request: _____

I am aware that transfers are granted under Board of Education policy and understand that the following conditions apply:

1. Approval of transfer is contingent upon staff and facilities.
2. Parents will provide transportation to and from school.
3. Attendance, behavior, and academic progress may effect approval, and cause revocation of previously approved open enrollment, causing a return to their home school.
4. Student obeys all school rules and provisions of the Student Code of Conduct.
5. Assigned school work is completed promptly by the student.
6. Transfer will remain in effect and continue unless formal action is taken to rescind the transfer.
7. **Open Enrollment for Virtual Academy ONLY April 26, 2021 through May 21, 2021**
STUDENTS WITH AN INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLAN (IEP) FOR EDUCATION AND SPEECH WILL BE APPROVED BASED ON THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES AT THE SCHOOL.

My signature indicates that I have read and agreed to the conditions listed above:

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Notification by: E-Mail Provide E-Mail Address: _____

Standard Mail

OFFICE USE ONLY

I am aware of this application for transfer. Sending School Principal Approval: _____

Special Ed Approved **Special Ed Not Approved** S.E. Director/Supervisor: _____

Reason: _____

Approved Not Approved Director of Student Affairs: _____