



WJHSD Return to School FAQs

RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

- **Is WJHSD planning to return to school for the 2020-2021 school year?**
 - Yes, we are prepared to welcome students back on Monday, August 24, 2020.
- **When is the first day of school?**
 - Monday, August 24, 2020.
 - **For the first week of school beginning on August 24 - 28, 2020, all classes will be online.**
For the first two days, instruction will occur synchronously via Canvas with live classroom meetings during regularly scheduled classroom periods. The remainder of the week will include asynchronous Canvas training and instruction as well as review approved health and safety best practices. Those students enrolled in the WJHSD Cyber Academy will also be required to complete the training courses.
- **Will the start times change for each school?**
 - Yes, please see the [bell schedules](#) for each school.
- **Who is on the Return to School committee?**
 - This committee is comprised of members from the following District groups: Central Office Administrators, School Board Members, Principals, Assistant Principals, Jefferson Federation of Teachers Executive Leadership, teacher representatives from each school, counselors, Student Assistance Program, health services, facilities, transportation, food service, and finance. [Click here for a full list of all committee members.](#)
- **Where can I find a copy of the WJHSD Return to School plan?**
 - Visit our website at www.wjhsd.net to find our plans, upcoming events, FAQs, and more. We will regularly update these pages as our plans and details continue to evolve as we approach the first day of school.
- **Is this the final plan? Has it been approved by the WJHSD School Board of Directors?**
 - Yes - The West Jefferson Hills School District Board of Directors approved the plans at a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, August 6, 2020. Please [click here](#) to view the plans and information.
 - Our plans for the 2020-2021 school year are subject to change and will be continually evaluated and updated based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and Allegheny County Health Department.

HEALTH & SAFETY

- **What measures are being put in place to protect student and staff health and safety?**
 - The WJHSD is looking forward to safely welcoming students back to school. We know that the school year will look different and we are implementing health and safety measures to protect our students, staff, and families.
 - Our Return to School and Health & Safety plan outlines how the District will monitor and report the virus, guidelines for hygiene practices, cleaning procedures, physical distancing, and additional protocols for transportation, restricting visitors to school buildings, athletic activities, and proper training for faculty and staff. Our Return to School plans were created with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Allegheny County Health Department, District Physician, District Health Services, and the WJHSD Board of School Directors.

- **What quarantine measures are being put in place for students and staff travel and vacations?**
 - Students and staff members who travel by airplane or vacation to designated COVID 'hotspots' will be required to quarantine for 14 days.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL

General Health & Safety

- **Will students and staff need to wear face coverings?**
 - Students and staff will be required to wear masks/face coverings at all times, including on the school bus. "Mask breaks" will be scheduled.
 - Students and staff will be provided with one face shield. In the event a face covering needs to be replaced at school, each school has face coverings available to ensure compliance with this requirement. A face covering could be a mask, bandana, gaiter, etc. It just has to cover the mouth and nose.
 - Masks, shields or other protective devices will be worn by all students at all times, unless a student has a documented medical condition, mental health condition, or disability in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA that precludes them from using a face covering, exceptions will be made.
 - ALL staff members will be required to wear some type of face covering
 - Documentation of such conditions from families will be requested.

- **Will students or staff be screened for COVID-19 symptoms?**
 - The District is asking for parents/guardians to perform a symptom screen on their children prior to putting them on a bus or bringing them to school. District staff should perform the same symptom screen before coming to work each day. During the screening, individuals should look for the following symptoms: a fever greater than 100.4 degrees, cough, shortness of breath, headaches, body aches, fatigue, loss/altered sense of taste or smell, diarrhea, and runny nose/congestion.

- **In the event COVID-19 cases continue to rise, is there a plan in place?**
 - Students may have to move from hybrid/in-person instruction to fully remote instruction at some point in the year if health data from Allegheny County Health Department or Pennsylvania Health Department warrant closing a school or multiple schools. WJHSD will work with authorities regarding cases that might require a change in school operating status.

Positive COVID-19 Test ([Please click here to view the COVID-19 Decision Tree Model](#))

- **What will happen if someone tests positive for COVID-19?**
 - Once a positive test is determined, the District will contact the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD), which will complete a contact investigation of individuals with confirmed cases.
 - With guidance from the ACHD, students and staff considered close contacts to the case (if any) will be notified of their exposure, using as little identifying information about the case as possible.
 - The WJHSD Health Office, Administration, and Counselors will collaborate with the ACHD on confirmed COVID cases within the district on investigations as it relates to mitigation steps (i.e. isolate individuals, shift a particular class or a school to full remote learning, etc).

- **Will I be notified if my child has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?**
 - The District will notify parents/guardians only when their child has been in a classroom, bus, sports team, or activity with a student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19 AND has been less than 6 feet apart from the individual for longer than 15 minutes.

- **If there is a confirmed positive case in a student or staff member, will WJHSD have to shut down the classroom and/or the school?**
 - WJHSD will follow the guidelines and directives set out by the Allegheny County Health Department and Pennsylvania Department of Education on whether to transition to remote learning. We do not intend to transition to fully remote learning for a class or school building due to one positive case, unless directed to do so by ACHD.

- **What is the protocol for a student or staff member to return to school after testing positive for COVID-19?**
 - The individual needs to provide written clearance from their healthcare provider and be symptom free for 24 hours and allow ten days to pass from the initial symptoms or positive testing.
- **What if a parent/guardian tests positive and the children test negative? Do the children quarantine along with the parents?**
 - If a household member of a student or staff member tests positive, parents/guardians or the staff member should consult with their healthcare provider to determine if any additional members of the household should also quarantine. Currently, the guidance of our District physician, as well as the ACHD, is to monitor symptoms.

COVID-19 Symptoms

- **What will happen if a student or staff member presents COVID-19 symptoms?**
 - If a student or staff member presents any of the described symptoms of COVID-19 to the Health Office, they will be isolated in an identified area located in the Health Office or another appropriately designated area to be evaluated. The School Nurse will apply required PPE and ensure a face mask is applied/available to an individual with respiratory symptoms and a fever over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit if it can be tolerated and developmentally appropriate.
 - The student or staff member will be directed home, as appropriate, and instructed to contact their personal physician.

General

- **Has the School Board changed the school calendar in any way for the 2020-2021 school year?**
 - While the approved 2020-21 calendar has not changed, updates may be made pending local, state, and national guidelines related to COVID-19. Any updates will be communicated and posted on the District's website.
- **When do I need to select an education option for my student?**
 - **Parents/guardians must select an education model no later than Thursday, August 13, 2020.** Only one option may be selected for each student.
- **What are the options for parents if they do not want their child to return to a building this fall?**
 - Parents can choose between 2 remote learning options
 - A full-online instructional model using the Canvas system is provided where students will be rostered in their normal classrooms, and students will have the choice of attending school daily via asynchronously and/or synchronously. Online classes will be fully

- integrated with the live in-person classes through recorded and live lessons.
 - Parents/guardians also have the option of enrolling their student in the WJHSD Cyber Academy for the 2020-2021 school year. Enrolling in Cyber Academy allows students to receive access to WJHSD organizations, clubs, athletics, and student services, and be taught by our teachers.
- What is the difference between Canvas (Option B) and WJHSD Cyber Academy (Option D)?
 - **Option B** Canvas - Students keep their own schedule and teachers will remain with those teachers if they ever return to in-person schooling. There will be an opportunity for live instruction from the classroom during their scheduled period/class time. Students will have the same materials, resources, assessments, grades, and projects as their friends in the class. This option provides students with the same WJHSD curriculum, pacing, and learning targets as in-person instruction.
 - **Option D** Students will be placed in the Edgenuity program that is FACILITATED by a WJHSD teacher - the instruction is done completely online without in-person or direct instruction at the student's pace. Although materials, resources, assessments, grades, and projects may be similar to the WJHSD curriculum they are not the same. Teacher assistance is after school and via email or phone.
- **Will families have the option of changing their child's instructional placement from at any point during the year?**
 - The District strongly recommends that all changes to existing instruction are made at the end of each quarter to ensure consistency for all students. However, if there are any issues or concerns, parents should contact their building principal to make alternate arrangements based upon the best needs of their child.

Face Coverings

- **Will face coverings be required?**
 - Students and staff will be required to wear masks/face coverings at all times, including on the school bus. "Mask breaks" will be scheduled.
 - Students and staff will be provided with one face shield. In the event a face covering needs to be replaced at school, each school has face coverings available to ensure compliance with this requirement.
 - Masks, shields or other protective devices will be worn by all students at all times, unless a student has a documented medical condition, mental health condition, or disability in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA that precludes them from using a face covering, exceptions will be made.
 - ALL staff members will be required to wear some type of face covering
 - Documentation of such conditions from families will be requested.
- **Do students have to wear a face covering during lunch?**
 - Students will need to wear a mask in defined eating areas but can remove their mask to eat or drink.

- **Have you considered adjusting the preset room temperatures or air circulation because teachers and students are required to wear masks?**
 - Where feasible and safe, classroom and office windows will be opened in to increase outside air supply into the buildings. Building HVAC systems will be adjusted to operate with increased outside air circulation.

- **Will my child have to wear his or her face covering all day?**
 - Yes. Masks, shields or other protective devices will be worn by all students and staff members and volunteers at all times, except during specific “mask breaks” as scheduled or when they are eating or drinking.

Student Services

- **How will my child’s IEP and/or 504 services and accommodations be met?**
 - **IEP** - During in-person instruction, service providers will follow the District’s health and safety protocols in the Special Education environment while implementing each student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Upon returning to school, case managers will address student-specific needs arising from the transition back into school buildings while considering whether or not a student has experienced a regression of skills and/or lack of progress. If regression and/or a lack of progress is present, the IEP team will identify opportunities for recovery, including additional, new, or different services and accommodations. Students with IEPs will be given the opportunity to attend in-person instruction five days a week. If the District is required to transition to full remote learning, case managers will schedule a meeting to discuss the contents of the IEP and create this individualized continuity of learning plan for students in a hybrid/remote environment.
 - **504 Plans** - The WJHSD School Counseling Department will ensure student support through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 while students are receiving in-person instruction. If the District transitions to full remote learning, the School Counseling Department will reach out to families to address individual student needs based on the changes to the instructional delivery.

- **If a student has an IEP for gifted learning, how will their needs be met through digital learning?**
 - **GIEP** - If the District is required to transition to hybrid or full remote learning, case managers will schedule a parent/teacher conference to discuss the contents of the GIEP and create this individualized continuity of learning plan for students in a hybrid/remote environment.
 - **Gifted Programming** - Online and project-based enrichment and educational opportunities will be made available to students through the GOAL program during all phases of In-Person Instruction, including hybrid, and full remote learning.

- **What social and emotional resources will be in place as students and staff return? What mental health resources are you offering for students and staff who are in need of support during this pandemic?**
 - WJHSD is committed to the social and emotional wellness of our students and staff and have put in place the following services this school year:
 - **Trauma-Informed Care** - During the 2020 school year, all staff members will begin training in Trauma Informed-Care. Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) is an approach in the human service field that assumes that an individual is more likely than not to have a history of trauma. Trauma-Informed Care recognizes the presence of trauma symptoms and acknowledges the role trauma may play in an individual's life, including service staff.
 - **Student Assistance Program** - The Pennsylvania Student Assistance Program (SAP) is a systematic team process used to mobilize school resources to remove barriers to learning. SAP is designed to assist in identifying issues including alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and mental health issues that pose a barrier to a student's success.
 - **School-Based Mental Health** - Through a partnership with Allegheny Health Network/Jefferson counseling, students in grades K-12 can be provided with outpatient mental health services both in the school setting and through teletherapy. This partnership will work to effectively diminish barriers that historically have prohibited some families from accessing supportive mental health services. The CHILL program will also be available at JHIS, PHMS and TJHS.
 - **School-Based Social and Emotional Wellness Committees** - Led by a School Counselor and supported by the District's Positive Behavior Support Specialists, each building will have a multidisciplinary committee that will work on addressing student and staff social and emotional wellness as we work to reopen and renew our school community.
 - **Individual Student Supports** - Students at all levels may be afforded opportunities to address specific social and emotional concerns through individual school counseling sessions.
 - **Consultative Support for School Staff** - Classroom teachers will have access to consultative support from Social Workers and Positive Behavior Support Specialists' to handle student concerns.
 - **Employee Assistance Program** - An Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a voluntary, work-based program that offers free and confidential assessments, short-term counseling, referrals, and follow-up services to employees who have personal and/or work-related problems. Information on EAP is available from Human Resources.

Social / Physical Distancing

- **Will social distancing be required? How will social distancing during passing periods be handled?**
 - Students and staff will be encouraged to distance as much as possible in classrooms, hallways, and stairways. Under the Hybrid Model, 6 feet of social distancing will be maintained in almost all areas. At the elementary level, students will remain in homeroom cohorts for instruction with minimal movement to assist in the delivery of special services classes such as interventions, ESL and special education.
 - At the middle school and high school, students will be encouraged to social distance while in hallways with certain stairwells/hallways designated for one-way travel
 - Staff will be encouraged to avoid communal spaces such as copy rooms and teachers lounges during break time.

- **How are students going to socially distance in classrooms and cafeteria?**
 - Classrooms will be set up to achieve required student occupancy, desks will be arranged to all face the same direction where possible, and flexible seating, tables, etc. will be removed where feasible. Desks will be spread out to maximize the distance between students.
 - Cafeterias will be utilized primarily for grab-and-go meals. Additional large common spaces such as auditoriums, gymnasiums, multi-purpose rooms and possibly classrooms will be utilized where feasible to reduce student density during lunch periods. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands before and after lunch periods and to wear masks/face coverings when not eating or drinking.

- **Will students be required to put masks on for recess, as they will have a difficult time maintaining social distancing?**
 - Weather permitting, outdoor recess will be held. Students will not have access to shared equipment, such as sports balls. Students will have access to permanent playsets if on campus. Contactless activities will be encouraged. Masks will not be required outdoors if students are engaged in any activity at least 6 feet apart. On days when indoor recess is necessary, students will stay in their homeroom to engage in activities that are contactless. Masks will be required for indoor recess. Students will follow hygiene protocols following recess.

- **What will you do in classrooms or areas where you're not physically able to space students 4-6 feet apart?**
 - Classrooms will be set up to achieve normal student capacity, however desks will be arranged to maximize the distance between students. Under the Hybrid Model, most spaces will meet the 6 feet requirement. Flexible seating arrangements such as tables, desk clusters or pods will be eliminated where possible and classrooms will be set up in a theater format with all desks facing the same way.
 - Current Commonwealth guidelines require 6 feet of distancing while eating.

Transportation/Buses

- **What will be different on school buses?**
 - Students will be required to wear face masks/face coverings at the bus stop and while on the bus at all times. Buses will be loaded from the rear to the front to minimize students passing in the aisles and the first seat will be empty to allow for social distancing.
- **If my child starts the school year remotely then transitions to in-person instruction during the school year, can they receive transportation if they are eligible for a school bus?**
 - Yes, they will be eligible for a school bus if they transfer to in-person instruction.

Drop Off/Pick Up

- **I drop my child off at school. Will anything change?**
 - More than one entrance and exit from the schools will be utilized to decrease large groups of students entering/exiting the school building. More detailed information will be communicated by the district.

Before-and-after School Program

- Will there still be a before and after school program?
 - Yes, exact times and locations will be communicated to parents as soon as possible.

Cafeteria

- **What changes will students see in the cafeteria?**
 - Cafeterias will be utilized for food preparation and grab-and-go meals. Additional spaces such as auditoriums, gymnasiums, multi-purpose rooms, large common room areas and possibly classrooms at the elementary level will be utilized where feasible to reduce student density during lunch periods. Grab-and-go lunches will be provided. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands before and after lunch periods and to wear masks/face coverings when not eating or drinking.
 - Lunch ID cards will be provided for all students to swipe their card for payment
 - Lunch cashiers will not be providing change should students need to pay with cash. All monies received will be deposited in the students' School Cafe lunch account.
- **Can remote learners still purchase lunch?**
 - Yes, for TJHS students and all of our students who are learning at home this year, lunches are still available to purchase and may be picked up at TJHS around the back of the building at entrance C117. Lunches will be available for pickup from

11:00AM-12:00PM only. To place a lunch order, families must email foodservice@wjhsd.net to order a meal by 3:00PM each day for the following day's lunch.

- **What changes will students see at water fountains?**
 - Most traditional water fountains are being replaced by touchless bottle filling stations across all buildings. Where traditional water fountains remain, they will either be disabled. Staff and students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles to school to refill at the stations.

Cleaning

- **What cleaning enhancements are being implemented in buildings?**
 - All classrooms and student spaces will be disinfected and sanitized multiple times a week. Custodial staff will conduct frequent cleaning of high traffic areas throughout the school using EPA Certified Covid products. (Hillyard's Re-Juv-Nal and QT Plus, as VitalOxide for the fumigation operations.)
 - Bathrooms and communal spaces will be disinfected three times throughout the school day.
 - Building HVAC systems will be adjusted to operate with increased outside air circulation. Where feasible and safe, classroom and office windows will be opened to increase outside air supply into the buildings.
 - Additional disinfecting products and cleaners will be available for staff to wipe down surfaces or supplies as they see fit and every student space is outfitted with hand sanitizer.
 - Additional custodial staff will be available during the school day to support additional cleaning.
 - School buses will be cleaned regularly and disinfected after the morning and afternoon runs. When feasible, windows will be open to increase air circulation.
- **Will teachers be required to clean between classes?**
 - Teachers will not be required to clean in between classes; however, they may choose to do so on their own. They will be supplied with cleaning products by the district.

Recess

- **Will students receive recess?**
 - Weather permitting, outdoor recess will be held. Students will not have access to shared equipment, such as sports balls. Students will have access to permanent playsets if on campus. Contactless activities will be encouraged. Masks will not be required outdoors if students are engaged in activities at least 6 feet apart. On days when indoor recess is necessary, students will stay in their homeroom to engage in activities that are

contactless. Masks will be required for indoor recess. Students will follow hygiene protocols following recess.

Sports

- **What is the plan for fall sports?**
 - WJHSD is following guidance created by the PIAA and WPIAL. For more information on our Return to Athletics plan, visit the district website at: <https://www.wjhsd.net/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=6G0AUBY&dasi=3IBI>.

Lunch

- **Where will students be eating lunch?**
 - Grab-and-go meals will be served in cafeterias, with additional shielding provided around food service areas and cash registers. Students will be encouraged and provided the opportunity to wash their hands before proceeding to the cafeteria to pick up lunches. Alternate spaces such as auditoriums, multi-purpose rooms and classrooms will be utilized where possible to divide lunch periods into smaller groups.

INSTRUCTION

Learning Options

- **Can I select more than one learning option for multiple children?**
 - Yes. Parents/guardians can select either Hybrid Model, Canvas or WJHSD Cyber Academy for their students. Siblings are not required to receive the same form of instruction.
- **Will fully remote instruction look different than what was offered in the spring of 2020?**
 - Full remote instruction will look significantly different than last spring. Utilizing feedback from the parent/guardian survey, families will notice a robust plan via Canvas Learning Management System for full remote instruction. There will be greater rigor and students can expect an increased workload.

Hybrid Model

- Students will be grouped into 2 cohorts per grade level - Team Dignity (last names A-L) and Team Respect (last names M-Z):
 - Team Dignity will meet Mondays and Thursdays in person at the students' school
 - Team Respect will meet Tuesdays and Friday in person at the students' school
 - Wednesdays will alternate for each cohort each week with Team Dignity beginning Wednesday, September 2, 2020
- A schedule will be provided for each cohort
- Online learning through Canvas will supplement the in-person lessons and occur synchronously with each class when students are not at school
- The situation will be evaluated on September 21st with the intent to bring students back to five days a week, in-person instruction.

Canvas Remote Learning

- **How does Canvas work (Option B)?**
 - A full-online instructional model using the Canvas system where students will be rostered in their normal classrooms. Students will have the choice of attending school daily via asynchronously and/or synchronously. Online classes will be fully integrated with the live in-person classes through recorded and live lessons, activities and assignments.
 - Students keep their own schedule and teachers will remain with those teachers if they choose to return to in-person instruction. There will be an option for live instruction from the classroom during their scheduled period/class time. Students will have the same materials, resources, assessments, grades, and projects as their friends in the class. This option provides students with the same WJHSD curriculum, pacing, and learning targets as in-person instruction.

WJHSD Cyber Academy

- **How does the WJHSD Cyber Academy work?**
 - The WJHSD School District partners with the Seneca Valley School District to offer WJHSD students in grades Kindergarten through 12 the opportunity to attend the WJHSD Cyber Academy. Enrollment is determined by an agreement between the school district and student's family, and it allows students to work at their own pace, at convenient times, while engaged in meaningful online learning. All WJHSD Cyber Academy students will be provided a chromebook. **For additional information on the program and to apply, please click here.**
- **What platform will WJHSD Cyber Academy utilize?**
 - WJHSD teachers will provide online instruction leveraging curriculum from Edgenuity, a leading provider of K–12 online curriculum, as well as WJHSD curriculum resources to create a blended learning solution. With courses available for core curriculum and solutions for intervention, test readiness, and summer school, Edgenuity will help us support our students no matter what needs they have. Instruction will include both

synchronous and asynchronous learning. Families who select this option will have the ability to return to a physical school building at the end of each quarter. Families who do not select this option at the start of school, can select this option at the end of each quarter. Canvas will be used as the learning management system.

- **Will students selecting to enroll in WJHSD Cyber Academy be able to participate in athletics and other activities?**
 - WJHSD Cyber Academy students will remain enrolled in the District and have access to District athletics, extra-curricular activities, and after-school functions that are available throughout the school year following the guidance of District, local, and Commonwealth officials.

- **Does the District intend on offering the WJHSD Cyber Academy after the 2020-2021 school year?**
 - Yes, the WJHSD Cyber Academy will remain as an option for parents.

- **Is state testing still required for WJHSD Cyber Academy students?**
 - Yes, state testing is required for WJHSD Cyber Academy students. The process for this will be communicated to families once enrolled.
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- **Is there a fee to enroll with WJHSD Cyber Academy?**
 - No, there is no fee to enroll in the WJHSD Cyber Academy.

Specials Classes

- **How will students participate in classes such as Physical Education, Music, and Art?**
 - Plans for these areas are not final at this time. The District is currently working with the department chairs on outlining courses that follow the Health & Safety Plan guidance for each grade level as it relates to these content areas. Plans for each department will be shared at a later date.

Curriculum/Grading

- **Will there be changes to grading?**
 - No, grading will be consistent with past years and set up on a quarterly basis in our Skyward Student Information System.