

July 23, 2020

Warren G. Harding High School families,

I am asking that you take a few minutes to read this lengthy communication regarding various aspects of our plan to safely reopen school for students in the Warren City Schools.

Warren City Schools Administrators and Trumbull County Public School Superintendents have been working collaboratively through current health and safety guidelines provided by our local health officials from the Warren City and Trumbull County Health Departments, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to determine ways to safely open school to children for the upcoming academic year. Our efforts are supported by the Restart and Reopening guidance provided to us by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) which is based upon the best current research available to all of us at this time. Education will be different just as most things have been since the community spread of the coronavirus several months ago. We believe we are prepared to welcome your child back to school in a safe and healthy school environment while practicing social distancing and providing your child with a high quality educational experience.

Learning Option One

At this time, about five weeks from the start of the 2020-2021 school year, if school were to begin next week, kindergarten through grade twelve students would experience a combination of in person traditional instruction two consecutive days per week and experience online or remote learning with their same teachers the other three days of the week. Students will attend either on Monday and Tuesday (Group A) or on Thursday and Friday (Group B), with Wednesday being reserved for online learning, cleaning and sanitization of the school between learning groups and ongoing teacher professional development. Lap top computers will be provided to all students in grades 9 -12 for completing assignments during the online/remote learning days, and internet access through hot spots will also available for families that demonstrate a legitimate need for reliable internet service.

Senior (12th Grade) students opting for this hybrid option will only be required to report for three periods in either the AM or PM to satisfy course requirements for graduation, and take two elective courses remotely. Senior students may be required to be present for more than three periods depending upon course load (some AP & CCP options, or for credit recovery needs).

In this scenario we have dedicated hundreds of hours planning for the safe return to school for your child. Listed below are some of the safety measures we plan to have in place to support the health, safety and well-being of your child:

- **Daily Health Assessments** will take place each morning **for students and staff** including temperature screening, inquiring and observation for coronavirus symptoms including positive exposure to coronavirus, cough and/or shortness of breath.
- **Akron Children’s Hospital nursing staff** provided at Harding High School with access to our **Nurse Practitioner** for any family that enrolls in our school based health program.
- **Hand sanitizing stations** and social distancing markers provided in each classroom and throughout the building.
- **Facial Covering/mask wearing and or facial shield** is **mandatory** for **all staff** except for very limited circumstances.
- **Facial covering/mask wearing** is **mandatory** for **all students in grades 3-12** except for teacher directed mask breaks while in the classroom at an individual student desk while maintaining six foot social distancing, while eating/drinking or when not practical due to a significant identified disability or identified health condition.
- **Facial covering/mask wearing** is **mandatory** for all students **while riding a Warren City School Bus** consistent with all other Trumbull County Public Schools.
- **Social Distancing** of six feet is an expectation for everyone during the school day.
- Classroom **teacher to student ratios have been reduced** to promote six foot social distancing availability at all times. We anticipate 9-12 students, on average, per classroom.
- **Breakfast** will be provided free to all students and will be eaten **in the classroom**.
- **Lunch** will be provided free to all students and will be eaten **in the classroom**.
- The **physical transition of students is being reduced**. Students will remain in a home classroom for core subjects **with teachers changing rooms** so as to limit direct contact interactions that would interfere with six foot social distancing.

Learning Option Two

Families that prefer a full online/remote learning option will have that opportunity as well. Under this scenario, students will complete all of their grade level work and assignments online for the entire first semester of school and a laptop will be provided to access the remote instruction and assist in the completion of assignments. Families who prefer this option will need take the following steps:

- Notify your child's school between **Monday, July 27 and Friday, July 31, 2020**, of your intent to utilize the Warren City Schools online option by completing the online intent form on the district web page (Warrencityschools.org) listed under the Warren G. Harding High School tab, or by calling Lead Secretary Kim Leigh - at WGH - directly at 330-675-8750.
- Set up a time to talk directly with your child's principal to discuss the mutual expectations and agreements for online learning.
- Complete and return paperwork related to the online learning option to your child's principal. Continue to work with your child's principal or designee to address any concerns that may occur throughout the online/remote learning process.
- This option is a commitment for one full semester. This option may be continued/discontinued for the entire year provided health conditions at that time.

All requests for online learning must be made July 27-31, 2020.

Families need to decide which learning option they prefer and we will work to provide a high quality education experience to meet the identified option. Students that remain under option one and have received transportation to school last year will receive communication from our transportation department in about a week requiring families to request transportation for the 2020-2021 academic year. This is necessary for us to properly create bus routes consistent with current transportation guidelines.

Start and end times for school will be adjusted and made available to families next week via the district web page. These times are not finalized yet however Warren G. Harding High School is anticipated to begin about 20-25 minutes earlier than last year. This is still tentative as we are in the process of finalizing these times due to adjustments being made to better support our transportation of students to and from school and the addition of bus attendants on each morning route to better support health and safety guidelines as prescribed by local and state health officials.

We understand this is just a snapshot of our plans for the safe and healthy reopening of school for students in the Warren City Schools but wanted to keep parents informed as we are about five weeks away from the scheduled start of school. **The start of school for students has been adjusted to Thursday, August 27, 2020 for students identified in the "B group" and will be Monday, August 31 for students in the "A group".**

Stay safe, stay healthy and look for more communications from your child's principal as we get closer to the start of the 2020-2021 academic year!

Steve Chiaro, Superintendent
Warren City Schools

Dante Capers, Principal
Warren G. Harding High School