



# WILLOUGHBY-EASTLAKE Board of Education

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August 6, 2020

Good Afternoon,

As we prepare to return to school, I would like to share a few details with you regarding distance learning, transportation and procedures that will be followed if a person in our schools were to test positive for COVID-19.

For those families that have enrolled their students in a distance learning platform, an email verifying enrollment was sent to you during the past week. Students in grades kindergarten through fifth will work daily with a teacher that has been assigned to them using Schoology. We are currently reassigning teachers from traditional classroom settings to virtual settings. Once this process has been completed, you will be receiving more information from your classroom teacher. Elementary school teachers will work exclusively with the students in his/her class.

Students in grades six through twelve, that are participating in online school, will follow the daily schedule of classes assigned to them prior to entering a distance learning environment. They will remotely join the same class that they would have been assigned to in an in-person setting. These classes will also be available for viewing at a later time so that students are able to review the material presented. Although classes will be filmed and available for review, attendance during the originally scheduled time is mandatory and attendance criteria will apply, unless a child has an excused absence that has been reported to their teacher. Daily schedules for our middle school and high school students will remain the same with the exception of Wednesday afternoons. ***On Wednesday afternoons, all students, in grades six through twelve in Willoughby-Eastlake Schools, whether in person or virtual will have early release and will attend morning classes only.*** As in-person students finish Wednesday morning classes, normal afternoon transportation will be offered and these students will be transported to their homes.

As a part of our planning for returning to school, several parents have asked for information about social distancing on school buses. Although many students have moved to virtual learning and the number of students riding a bus will be decreased, social distancing will not always be possible. While it is the goal of the District to have no more than 2 students per seat, the actual number of students per seat remains unknown. Because of this, many parents have asked if they can drive their children to school instead of placing them on a school bus.

If you wish to drive your child to school, we would certainly welcome you to do so but would like to remind you that upon arrival, it will be necessary for them to enter the building independently and with the other car riders/walkers. At this time, in order to keep our buildings as safe as possible, visitors will not be permitted to enter the building. If you are planning to remove your child from school

transportation, please fill out the survey here: [Transportation Opt Out](#) . This will allow the District to better plan for accurate transportation needs.

Finally, I would like to address school closing procedures that will take place if a person in our school building tests positive for COVID-19.

In all elementary schools, in the event there is a confirmed case (or multiple cases) of COVID-19 in one classroom within a building, the students and staff in that class will be quarantined for fourteen days. The fourteen-day quarantine is subject to change based on current recommendations from the Lake County General Health District. For example, they could change the quarantine period to ten days and then the District would adhere to that change. During the quarantine period, all students would move to online learning. If there is a confirmed case (or multiple cases) of COVID-19 in more than one classroom within a building, the building will be quarantined for fourteen days and all students in the building will move to online instruction.

In all middle schools and high schools, in the event a person is confirmed as having COVID-19, all classes the student (or staff member) has attended will be quarantined for fourteen days. This means that as the student has traveled from one class to another, each class/staff member that has been in contact with this person will be quarantined. If more than one person is identified as testing positive for COVID-19 on a given day, the entire school building will be quarantined for a fourteen-day period.

At the School of Innovation guidelines for middle school and elementary school will remain the same as other Willoughby-Eastlake buildings. However, if it is necessary to close due to confirmed cases of COVID-19, all students in the building will be quarantined for fourteen days and moved to remote learning, regardless of grade level.

In addition to waiting for the appropriate number of days, we will also seek the recommendations of the Lake County General Health District prior to reopening.

I understand that this letter contains a great deal of information and I greatly appreciate the time you have taken to read this.

Thank you for your continued patience, kindness and understanding as we move through these unprecedented times. Willoughby-Eastlake will continue to work with our community, families, students and staff and together, we will remain strong.

Sincerely,

*Steve Thompson*

Steve Thompson  
Willoughby-Eastlake Schools Superintendent