



Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools

Preparing for 2020-2021



Frequently Asked Questions

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Scheduling

Will students attend school five days per week? If so, will students in the high schools have a normal schedule.

All students will attend class five days per week. The schedules they will follow will be as close to a normal schedule as possible.

Is there a way we can delay the start of school?

The district has delayed the start of school for all students by two weeks.

Will the children be expected to wear masks all day long?

Unless students are working independently and are a minimum of 6 feet from another student, students in grades 3 to 12 will be expected to wear masks in school. According to the state and local health departments, this is one of the best ways to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and wearing masks has been strongly suggested by Governor DeWine.

If the virtual school lasts for one semester, when does the semester end?

One semester is made up of two, nine week grading periods. The end of the first semester will be in the beginning of January.

What changes will be made to the schedules? Will it be just as it was when we left in March?

Class schedules will remain the same. Start and end times for each building will also remain the same.

Will students be required to participate in gym class?

Yes. Students will be required to participate in all classes. District policies however, will continue to remain in force. If a student has a medical reason that prohibits them from participating in a class such as physical education, the student will be exempt.

Is there a way to do part time in class and part time at home?

No, in order to plan for staffing and for students to have consistency in their curriculum, it is necessary for them to remain in the option they chose on a full-time basis.

Why can't the deadline to commit to online learning be extended?

July 20th was selected as the deadline to register for online schooling so that the district would have adequate time to staff virtual classrooms, train staff members in the use of Schoology (the digital platform that will be used), reassign students in school classrooms and obtain technology for any students in need of these items. This was the latest date possible.

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Scheduling (Cont'd.)

Is it possible to align the Willoughby-Eastlake schedule with other districts in Lake County?

Lake County superintendents have collaborated to align as much of their schedules and safety protocol as possible.

How will students (and educators) be transitioned back into the “regular” setting if they wish to return for the second semester?

Where will they go? How will they move into a classroom?

Students transitioning back to the classroom will be moving back with others throughout the district. The decision to have virtual classes remain in session for one semester was done so that students could transition as a group. Students will return to their home school.

What if I register my child for online school prior to July 20th and they decide to attend school in person?

Once signed up for online school, students are obligated to attend until the end of the first semester.

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Transportation

If the students are bused to school, what is the screening process prior to them getting on the bus and how will you keep them safe on the bus?

There will not be health screenings prior to students getting on the bus. Once on the bus, all students will be required to wear a mask, students will be socially distanced to the greatest extent possible and students will sit in assigned seats.

Will there be social distancing on buses?

Students will be spaced on buses to the greatest extent possible. Masks will be required on buses and students will sit in assigned seats. Because of the number of students riding W-E buses, they will not always be socially distant.

Will school buses be cleaned?

Yes, school buses will be cleaned on a regular schedule. They will be cleaned more often than they have been in years past. This schedule includes cleaning before each route.

If I do not want my child to ride the bus to school, can I drive him?

Yes, if you would like to drive your child instead of having them ride a school bus, you may. When arriving at school, your child will have to enter the building with the other car riders/walkers. You will not be permitted to enter the building with them.

Will my child have to wear a mask on the bus?

Yes. All students will be required to wear a mask while riding the school bus.

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Health & Well Being

Will there be temperature checks for students and staff each day?

There will not be temperature checks during the day unless a child/staff member is ill. All people will be asked to monitor their health prior to coming to school.

What if someone in the home gets the virus? Does the child have to stay at home for 2 weeks and isolate?

If a child/adult has someone in their home with COVID-19 it will be necessary for them to follow the directives of the health department. Because the directives change, it will be dependent upon the recommendations at that time.

Exactly how do you plan on keeping the students and faculty safe?

The most effective strategy to limit the spread of COVID-19 is to utilize social distancing. The district will utilize this strategy to the greatest extent possible in all buildings.

Will doors and windows be open as much as possible?

Classroom doors will be kept open in order to minimize persons surfaces touched throughout the day. Whether or not windows are open is dependent on the presence of air conditioning in the building and will be left to the discretion of the classroom staff.

Will all students be sent home to work online if there is an outbreak of COVID-19 in the city or in the schools?

Whether or not students will be sent home will be determined by the Lake County General Health District and the office of the governor. If however, the staff members of the district become ill and there are not enough teachers to properly staff classrooms, the district will take this under consideration.

If it becomes necessary for my child to remain at home because they have been quarantined for two weeks, will they be able to attend school in a virtual format?

If an individual student is quarantined, they will not attend school in a virtual format. They will receive homework as they would in a traditional manner.

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Social Distancing

How does the district plan to social distance a classroom full of at least 20 students?

All furniture in classrooms will be arranged to maximize space between students. Because it may not be possible to distance students in all areas, additional safety measures will be used such as face masks and sanitizers.

Are there specific differences that will take place in classes such as gym/music/recess/encore?

The same procedures will be used in all classes to maximize distancing and practice all safety measures possible. Recess schedules will be staggered so that the number of students outside at any given time is decreased.

What will lunch rooms look like?

Lunch schedules, like recess, will be staggered so that the number of students in the cafeteria is decreased. Students will be given assigned seats during lunch and will be distanced to the greatest extent possible.

How many students will be in a classroom?

Classroom sizes will remain the same as they are during a normal school year.

How will schools manage congregating?

Students will be monitored while on district property and will be asked to refrain from gathering.

Will students have shared desks or tables?

In the middle schools and high schools, students that change classes will be using shared seating and desks. Furniture that is shared will be sanitized throughout the day when possible. Tables that are used by more than one person will also be cleaned more frequently throughout the day.

How will children be socially distanced on the playground?

Willoughby-Eastlake employees will monitor students on the playground. While outside, students will be reminded that they must play independently of other students.

How will you keep students away from each other in the hallway and bathroom?

Student travel in the hallways will be as minimal as possible. When use of the bathroom is necessary, students will be restricted as to how many can use the restroom at one time.

Will there be limited group activities?

Student group activities will be limited. There will be no assemblies in school and no in school or out of school field trips.

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Classes & Online School

How and when will students, staff and parents be trained on the online option as it will be different from what they have used?

The district will be conducting professional development during the first two weeks that the staff returns to the building. This time will allow the staff members to become familiar with the online platform that will be used this year. Students will be trained by their online teachers when the school year begins.

Will any learning happen outside?

In the past teachers have taken their classes outside for lessons. This will remain a possibility and will be at the discretion of the classroom teacher.

My child attends the School of Innovation. Will they lose their spot if they are online?

School of Innovation students will not lose their spot if they attend classes virtually.

If my child attends school online are they able to come to school for music/band?

No. If a student enrolls in a virtual option for school, all classes are held online.

Our son takes honors classes. Will these be available to take if we select the online course option?

Yes, we will offer students the opportunity to take Honors courses.

If my child is a student at SOI and is enrolled in the online program, will she be following the SOI curriculum the same as other students at the SOI building, and having the same teachers?

No, the student will follow the general grade level curriculum with a Willoughby-Eastlake teacher, but we will not have separate classes designated for SOI students and they will not necessarily have a teacher from SOI.

How do labs work? For example, Biology if a student is online.

The teachers will have students complete some lab activities at home with materials they would have access to, and they may utilize some online simulations, but it will be impossible to replicate the full lab experience online.

In an online option, does the student have the option to pick classes?

There will be some class choices and electives for the secondary students. The offering of some classes will depend upon enrollment and staffing availability just as it does in a traditional setting. There will be some elective modules available online if there are not enough students for a full class.

Are the expectations for grade school different than middle school for online classes?

Expectations will be appropriate for the student and their age/grade level in terms of length of video conferencing sessions with teachers, participation expectations, the number of assignments, etc. That will be different, but age appropriate, for elementary, middle school and high school students.

COVID

**CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE**

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Classes & Online School (Cont'd.)

Is the online the same as what they did for the last two months of this past school year?

We are using a better learning management system this year, Schoology, instead of Google Classroom, which will make it much easier for students and parents to access and keep track of assignments and communicate with each other. All classes will be housed and accessed through the Schoology platform, so you no longer need to log into separate Google Classroom sites for each class or teacher. There will be required attendance at more "live" class sessions with the teacher providing direct instruction than your students may have experienced in the spring. Attendance and participation requirements, as well as work completion assignments for grades will be more stringent.

The letter states that online students must participate in state testing. Will those tests be administered online as well?

The state has not provided us with any specific information regarding testing for the 2020-2021 school year. We are assuming the Ohio State Tests (AIR tests), if required, will be administered online as they have been in the past. Depending on state guidelines, those tests may have to be administered on campus rather than online at home. We do not know what ODE will or will not allow for those testing situations. Regarding other testing, such as ACT or PSAT, students will have to participate in those tests on campus unless those test companies provide an alternative testing method. AP tests were offered online last spring, but we do not know if that will be an option again for the upcoming school year.

Will there be a different curriculum for gifted kids?

Gifted students will be taught the required grade level

standards, but teachers will also provide enrichment opportunities and differentiate work assignments based on student needs.

My child is in preschool. Are they able to register for online classes?

At this time preschool classes will be held in person only. The preschool area is large enough that social distancing will not be an issue.

Will there be daily Zoom meetings for students? If so, what do you expect with regard to what part of day? specific times? whole group? small group? 1 on 1? Is it a full day of online learning, same hours as normal in-person classes?

We cannot provide specific information regarding class schedules and class formats until we have confirmed enrollments and assigned the teaching staff. Most likely, there will be several "live" class sessions students will have to attend throughout the day during normal school hours. We do anticipate that both whole group and small group sessions will be held depending on how the teachers set up the management of their classes and content. During these "live" video conferencing sessions the teacher is providing direct instruction to the students. Classes will be held during normal school hours, but at this time we cannot say specifically what time class sessions will be held.

How will students be graded in an online classroom?

We will follow the district's grading policy. Teachers will grade assignments and the grades will be recorded in the PowerSchool gradebook and will be reflected in their report card grades. Teachers will have discretion as to which assignments will be graded and recorded just as they do in a traditional classroom.



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Classes & Online School (Cont'd.)

If in an online class, how will kids reach out to teachers if they don't understand an assignment?

Students and parents will have communication tools within the Schoology learning management system that will make it easy to contact and communicate with teachers. Teachers can also respond to emails and phone calls and be available for virtual parent-teacher conferences.

What happens if kids seem to be falling behind their peers in the classroom?

Teachers will contact parents if the students are not completing assignments or are struggling with their coursework. Teachers will work with the parents to make adjustments and provide support as necessary to help students get on track and be successful. Parents are encouraged to contact the teacher if they notice any problems with their child's work performance.

Will students working online get actual workbooks or any paper/pencil work?

If a workbook is being provided to students in the traditional school setting, then the students participating in the online option will also have access to the same material. Students may complete some work using paper and pencil or other materials, but the expectation is that the majority of all assignments will be completed online.

What kind of support will parents have from teachers?

Parents will be able to communicate with teachers through the Schoology learning management system, email and phone calls if needed to discuss their child's progress. Teachers and parents can also meet using the video con-

ferencing technology. Just as in the traditional setting, parents can contact the teachers for help and support with their students.

If my child attends school online, how will my child's accommodations and interventions be followed if on an IEP?

If a child with an IEP would like to attend the online option, his/her IEP team, along with his/her parent, will meet prior to the start of school to discuss how goals, objectives and accommodations will be met virtually.

Do you know if kids can go virtual at their high school and attend NCI for their specialty program in person?

We are preparing for face-to-face instruction and skills lab for the programs in the fall and students who opt for online instruction for their core high school classes will be encouraged to attend their career technical program at NCI Eastlake and/or NCI Willoughby.

What will online curriculums look like this year, what would we expect with the work load?

We are going to work with all of the online teaching staff to finalize the schedules, expectations for time spent with students during interactive teaching, and assignments. Students will meet with teachers every day and have assignments to complete independently just as they do in a traditional school setting. We recognize the need to balance the online component and the work assignments while also ensuring that students are learning and have enough practice with the skills needed at their grade level. An elementary child who was in a traditional classroom from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. was able to complete a lot of work at school. They will now be completing comparable work at home following their lessons with the teacher.



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Classes & Online School (Cont'd.)

I'm worried there will be too much screen time for her with the remote learning.

The students will meet with the teachers on a regular schedule throughout the day for classes. They will not be online for six hours straight with teachers, but they will have several sessions online with teachers in the morning and the afternoon. We cannot tell you specifically how much screen time that will be, but since it is a remote learning environment and the instruction and many of the assignments will be completed online, this is a factor parents need to consider when making their decision.

What curriculum will you be able to implement for parents to work with their kids instead of kids staring at the computer all the time?

The teachers will provide direct instruction and assign work for students to complete independently. Some of those assignments will be online, and there will also be assignments, such as reading assignments, paper/pencil tasks, journal writing, etc. that may be done away from the screen. However, since it is a remote learning environment and the instruction and many of the assignments will be completed online, this is a factor parents need to consider when making their decision.

Approximately how much "live" instruction would be required for kindergarten if choosing the online learning option?

The exact schedules that will be followed by the students, which will include how much time they will spend in "live" lessons with teachers will be determined when teachers are assigned to students and their schedules are established. Whole group and small group lessons will take place. Students need to be available during regular school

hours. We can't provide an exact number of minutes of instruction at this time.

Is the virtual teacher only going to have kids in the same grade or are they going to have kids of all grade levels?

Most classes are grade level specific, however, in some cases students will be in classes with students from other grades. For example, if a student has been formally accelerated in a subject such as math, they may take math with peers in the above grade level class. Middle and high school students often take classes with students of different grade levels depending on what course is on their schedule.

Will chrome books be provided for online learning? What other technology will parents need? Printers? Scanners? Will students receive textbooks?

When a parent completes the enrollment form for the online option, they may request a Chromebook for their child. Parents may find it beneficial to have a printer at home, but it is not required and is not being provided by the district. A scanner is not required. Students may use the camera on the Chromebook to take a picture of anything that needs to be uploaded and shared with the teacher. Some workbooks and textbooks will be provided based on the course needs and the availability of textbooks.

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Sanitizing/Cleaning

What will be done regarding cleaning?

The district has purchased Clorox360 machines to be used in buildings for additional cleaning. High traffic areas will be cleaned throughout the day. In addition to these measures, the district will be employing additional staff to assist with specialized needs that have been created by COVID-19.

Do sanitation precautions involve someone dedicated to wiping high touch surfaces throughout the day?

Yes, the additional staff members that have been hired for cleaning purposes will assist the district to focus on cleaning high traffic areas during the school day.

Are you able to get all of the supplies (cleaners, hand sanitizer, etc.) you need to maintain the precautions and processes you're putting in place?

At this time, the district is able to purchase the supplies that are needed for cleaning. The district has also been able to purchase hand sanitizer. In order to add an additional layer of sanitization, each student is being asked to bring additional hand sanitizer to school for their personal use.

General Questions

Are you going to be closing schools again?

Whether or not the district will close again will be determined by the Lake County General Health District and the office of the governor. If however, the staff members of the district become ill and there are not enough teachers to properly staff classrooms, the district will take this under consideration.

Will there be YCare for students?

At this time the YMCA is preparing to hold YCare before and after school.

Will sports still happen this year? If so, what will this look like?

At this time, all sports activities have begun. The determination of what they will look like is regulated by the health department and the Ohio High School Athletic Association. This is changing on a daily basis. At this time, the district can not answer exactly how they will look.

Will the buildings hold orientation this year?

All information regarding orientation and specific events will be emailed out by building principals.

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