



VAN WERT CITY SCHOOLS SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

- 1. Staff and students in school as scheduled.**
- 2. Parent Selected Remote Learning - Individual Plan - Students at home learning remotely.**
- 3. District Determined Remote Learning - School Plan - Students not returning to school, learning remotely.**

TEMPERATURE CHECKS

- Parents will be asked to complete symptom checks before reporting to school each day. Parents are expected to keep any child home if he/she is sick or displays any symptoms of illness.
- Staff members will NOT be conducting temperature checks as students enter the building, classrooms, or school buses.
- Temperature checks will only be administered if a student has already arrived at school and reports that he/she is not feeling well. If the student's temperature is above 100 degrees, they will be sent home. Parents are required to pick up children who are determined to be sick.
- The Ohio Department of Education has altered attendance guidelines to make it more conducive for sick children to stay home.

WEARING FACE MASKS/SHIELDS/COVERINGS (Based upon State Mandates)

- VWCS staff are required to wear a face covering in school, except in special cases.
- VWCS students and bus drivers will be required to wear masks at all times on the bus.
- VWCS students in grades 3-12 are required to wear a face covering, except in special cases.
- VWCS students in grades PK-2 will be strongly encouraged to wear masks, especially when not able to social distance.

2020-2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR

- VWCS is slightly modifying the start of school with more staff professional development days. VWCS does NOT plan to adjust the 2020-2021 school calendar unless absolutely necessary and deemed so by public health authorities after this first change
- The first student day will be Monday, August 24, 2020.





SOCIAL DISTANCING AND CLASS SIZE

- In the school setting, social distancing for students is not always realistic due to class sizes, space constraints, and available resources. School personnel will do their best to accommodate social distancing guidelines by extending the distance between students as much as possible.
- VWCS will not be hiring more teachers or minimizing class size in order to help students social distance.
- VWCS is prepared to add visual aids throughout all the buildings to help students remember social distancing protocols.
- Seating charts will be accurately maintained.
- All district faculty and staff members will receive additional education and training regarding COVID-19 precautions.
- Hand sanitation stations will be available throughout all buildings at VWCS.
- To minimize contamination, students will be encouraged to bring their own water bottles from home and avoid using the drinking fountains except in situations where there is a non-contact water option. Students will be allowed to have containers holding water with them throughout the day in the classrooms.

GYM, RECESS, WALKING AND VISUAL/PERFORMING ARTS

- Health professionals agree that all individuals need physical activity and to increase their time outdoors, if possible.
- At VWCS, all gym, recess, and visual/performing arts classes (band, music, art, choir, etc.) will resume with maximum distance provided for all individuals.

BREAKFAST / LUNCH PROCEDURES

- Students will eat in the building cafeterias with one another, not at their classroom desks.
- Students will sit near each other with maximum distance provided when possible.
- The school breakfast/lunch program will continue to be offered daily with added sanitation and safety procedures.
- Students will be allowed to bring a packed lunch from home.

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

- All visitors and volunteers will be kept to a minimum.
- Anyone entering the building will be restricted to the main office area only.

CLEANING PROCEDURES

- All buildings, classrooms, and offices will receive regular cleaning and disinfecting to promote healthy environments. Frequently touched surfaces, doorknobs, handrails, etc. will receive special attention.
- Hand-hygiene products will be available in all buildings and in high-traffic areas.
- Studies show that hand washing is the most effective way to eliminate germs; therefore, students will receive increased opportunities to wash.
- Students will be responsible for their own Chromebooks and sharing will not be permitted.
- Students sharing materials will be minimal with proper sanitation or eliminated completely.





TRANSPORTATION

- Bus drivers and students will be required to wear face masks, with the exception of PK.
- Students will load back to front leaving the front seats empty.
- Students will be sitting side by side with 2 to a seat. Siblings will be encouraged to sit together.
- Parents may choose to transport their child(ren) to/from school daily if they prefer not to use bus transportation provided by the district.
- VWCS plans to continue to provide transportation for athletes to/from contests.
- At this time, field trips will be suspended; however, we will evaluate this option as the school year progresses.

BLENDED/REMOTE EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

- VWCS is not preparing for blended learning sessions or alternating student days in the classroom. Due to the geographical size of the district and a number of high school courses containing multiple grade levels, these options are not viable for our district. If the Ohio Risk guidelines reach level 3 red, then additional appropriate measures, including blended learning, may take place. Example - 1 day a week for remote learning at home for deep cleaning in buildings.
- At this time, VWCS plans to operate with either all students on campus (except those choosing the **parent selected remote-learning** option) receiving face-to-face instruction or all students at home completing **district determined remote learning** should Governor DeWine impose another Stay-at-Home order.

REMOTE LEARNING OPTIONS (for details see the [VWCS Remote Learning Plan](#))

- The district will provide students with a remote learning option (Parent Selected Remote Learning). Each building will have unique remote learning expectations. To learn these expectations, families are asked to contact the building principal. The deadline to commit to Parent Selected Remote Learning is Friday August 7, 2020.
- VWCS District Determined Remote Learning, if necessary, will be structured differently than Spring 2020.
- VWCS is required by the Ohio Department of Education to have a Board adopted Remote Learning Plan in place prior to the start of the 2020-2021 school year.





FINAL THOUGHTS

In closing, we assure you that VWCS will do everything possible to decrease the risks associated with contracting COVID-19, as well as any other virus, illness, or disease. We understand sending your child to school among this pandemic is a family decision not to be taken lightly.

Recently, author Jon Gordon released a book called *The Garden*. The book is a journey about ways to overcome fear, anxiety, and stress.

We are given 5 ways to overcome these challenges and embrace how fear, anxiety, and stress all start from WITHIN not from OTHER PEOPLE.

Doubt – Distort – Discourage – Distract – Divide = All the things VWCS will not do!

We challenge all VWCS parents, staff, and students to attack the negative with POSITIVITY and live with a growth mindset that we will get better, we will be better educators, and we will come out on the other side as better people. We will find a way to get back to school and we will do so with safety and protocols in place.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to forge ahead in this new era of student safety and education, and we will continue to update the VWCS family with updates or changes as they become available.

Mark Bagley – Superintendent

Michelle Mawer – Treasurer

Bob Priest – High School Principal

Darla Dunlap – Middle School Principal

Justin Krogman – Elementary Principal

Lori Bittner – ECC Principal

All VWCS administration, teachers, and employees

