

WCEA School Operating Plan

Dealing with CoVid 19

WCEA will be operating in-person, five days a week, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. using CoVid protocols.

Drop-off and dismissal:

- Adults are to drop off students by the back door. Students will enter the building themselves. If you must walk a student to the door, park in the front of the building. Adults should not enter with their child.
- Upon entering, students will be checked for symptoms including a possible temperature check. (Fever is defined as 100.4 F or greater) They will be required to wash their hands.
- Nonessential visiting by adults is discouraged. Please text or email the teachers any necessary communication.
- Adults are to remain in their vehicles parked in front of the building for pick up. Upon dismissal, staff will dismiss students, visually watching them get to their vehicle. If your student stays for aftercare, please text the teachers when you arrive so they can walk your child to you. Again, do not enter the building.

Social distancing and minimizing exposure:

- We will create as much space between students and teachers as is feasible, but will not be held strictly to enforcing 6 feet of social distancing. 3 feet is the minimum allowable.
- Student work spaces have been separated by distance or barrier. A child will select their work space for the day and remain in one location to do their work. Frequent movement breaks and opportunities will be given as usual. Tables with spaced chairs will be used for small group instruction and disinfected after each group.
- Work space dynamics will be reviewed often for any improvements.
- Markings may be used on the floors to help with distancing in lines if needed. We will be limiting placing students in lines and instead dismiss one-at-a-time.
- Self-service food to a group of students will not be allowed. Snacks and beverages served to a group must be individually packaged. In addition, please work with your child to teach them to open their own snack or lunch item packages.
- Students will be kept in their small classroom group as much as possible throughout the day and from day to day. We will limit mixing between cohort groups as much as possible.

- Social distancing will also be used for specials like Spanish, art, music, and karate. Especially for music, students will have a marked space and all be facing forward. Specials like karate may be done outside for more space and ventilation. In fact, we will be using outside more often for learning activities.
- Frequent reminders for students and staff to stay at least 6 feet apart from one another will be given often. Air hugs and high fives will be the norm.
- Activities that bring together large groups of people or activities that do not allow for social distancing, including some in-person field trips will not be done.

Cloth face coverings and face shields:

- Wearing cloth face coverings and/or a nonmedical face shield is strongly recommended and will be required for the Expansion class and adults in the building. We will teach and reinforce the use of cloth face coverings and/or face shields for students and staff throughout the school day. Wearing cloth face coverings and/or face shields is most important when students and staff cannot maintain 6 feet of distance between each other. Cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer does not know they are infected.
- Cloth face coverings or face shields may be considered for younger students if it is determined they can reliably wear, remove, and handle them.
- Each student is to wear or bring with them a face mask or shield each day. In addition, a back-up one must be provided,
- We are aware that cloth face coverings should not be placed on: ♣ Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious. ♣ Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance. ♣ Anyone who cannot tolerate a cloth face covering due to developmental, medical, or behavioral health needs. If there one of these needs exist, we may encourage trying a face shield or practicing keeping the mask on for increased amounts of time.

Protecting vulnerable populations:

- Alternative learning arrangements will be made for vulnerable students or those wishing to remain at home. This will include online assignments and Zoom lessons using distance learning. Uniforms must be worn when attending online class meetings.

Hygiene practices:

- Supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (e.g., soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, disinfectant wipes, and tissues) will be provided and strategically placed in areas where they may be frequently used.

- Hand hygiene will be added even more to the daily school schedule for all students and staff, including handwashing and sanitation breaks during or between classroom activities. We will teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol by staff and older students
- We will supervise the use of hand sanitizer by students ensuring that children and staff with sensitivity or skin reactions to hand sanitizer can use soap and water.
- We will reinforce handwashing during key times including but not limited to: arrival; before, during, and after preparing or eating food; after using the bathroom; after blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing; after touching objects with bare hands that have been handled by other people.
- Our school will routinely do an environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces and shared equipment throughout the day especially after lunch and afterschool. We will also increase the frequency of disinfection during high-activity periods during the school day.
- Each student will have their own school supplies to minimize sharing of high-touch materials to the extent possible. Supplies will be stored in their own school box and/or cubby. We will limit the use of supplies and equipment to one small classroom cohort group at a time if needed, allowing for time to clean and disinfect between use.
- We will avoid sharing electronic devices, books, toys, and other games or learning aids when possible, and ensure cleaning between uses. Computer keyboards may be covered with plastic wrap.

Monitoring and excluding for illness:

- Regular screening for symptoms will be done throughout the school day to help to quickly identify signs of illness and help reduce exposure. Staff and students will be encouraged to self-monitor symptoms. If symptomatic, a student will be isolated and pick up mandated.
- We will not require universal testing to admit students or staff into school. Viral testing only determines infection at the point in time the test occurs, and may miss cases in the early stages of infection.
- Staff and students should stay home if they have a fever, cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat or present with symptoms of COVID-19 include: new onset cough or shortness of breath by themselves OR at least 2 of the following: fever (100.4°F or higher), chills, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of sense of smell or taste, and gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea. They can return to school when symptoms are no longer present in most cases.

- Staff and students must stay home if they have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms. Stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND until no fever for at least 3 days without medication AND improvement of other symptoms. In addition, a student or staff must stay home for 14 days if they have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19.
- If there is a negative test result but symptoms with no other diagnosis: staff and students must follow the same guidelines as if they tested positive.
- Staff and families must self-report to the school administration if they or their student have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or had a close exposure to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days. Privacy will be maintained.
- It is not required for students or staff members to have documentation of a negative viral test or a letter certifying release from isolation in order to return to school, but they must follow recommended guidance regarding when to return to school.
- If a student or staff must stay home because they may have been exposed to COVID-19, all parents/guardians will be notified of the potential health threat to their child. Confidentiality in accordance with FERPA and all other state and federal laws will be maintained. It is up to each family to decide if they want to keep their child at home for 14 days. The exposed person must stay home for 14 days.
- If a student or staff is sent home with suspected symptoms, the school will be disinfected immediately. Families will be notified. Again, confidentiality in accordance with FERPA and all other state and federal laws will be maintained.
- We will maintain engagement and offer distance learning activities for students who cannot be physically present in the classroom due to illness, exposure, or potential exposure.
- If a student or staff is found to have COVID-19, the school will be shut down for 14 days and distance learning put into place.

Support mental health and wellness:

- The COVID-19 pandemic is causing a tremendous amount of stress, fear, and anxiety for many people. We will help students and staff cope, access needed resources, and build resilience. We will be implementing more social and emotional learning curriculum, be giving students access to resources for mental health and wellness, and be tracking/monitoring students' emotional wellness.
- Staff, students, and families are encouraged to talk with people they trust about their feelings and concerns regarding COVID-19.