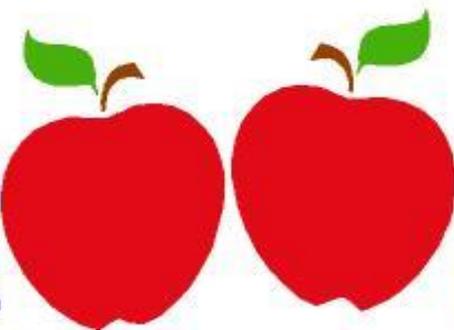


Welcome
Back To
School



DRAFT

*Strong Start
Plan*

*Weimar Junior High
Fall 2020*

Imagine/Inspire/Inform

Table of Contents

On-Site Instruction

Health and Safety Protocols

Screening

Presence of Symptoms

Actions following Confirmed Diagnosis

Face Coverings

Campus Visitor Protocols

Visitor Access to Building

Visitor Screening & PPE Requirements

Disinfecting and Hand Sanitizing Protocols

Handwashing & Sanitizing Expectations

Supplies & Materials

Campus Cleaning Protocols

Daily Campus Cleaning

Additional Cleaning Procedures for COVID-19 Positive Cases on Campus

Work & Learning Environment

Classroom Configurations & Procedures

Common Areas

Restrooms

Transitions, Arrival & Dismissal

Daily Schedules

Breakfast

Lunch

Recess

PE/Music/Guidance/etc.

Busing

Field Trips

Campus Events

Elementary Remote Instruction

General Expectations for Remote Learning

GOALS of Strong Start Plan:

- Ensure physical safety of WISD student and Staff
- Address social-emotional needs of WISD students and staff
- Ensure high levels of learning for all students

PLEASE NOTE: The details in this document are subject to change as directives are provided by governing authorities and/or health officials or as environmental conditions change.

On-Site Instruction

- 5-8 will remain in Self-Contained Classes, with rotational instructors, for the foreseeable future.
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Health and Safety Protocols

Screening

- All staff members are required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to work each day. If a staff member is experiencing any of the symptoms listed below in a way that is not normal for them, the campus administrator will be notified, and the staff member will not report to the campus. Symptoms to screen for include:
 - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Cough
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Shortness of breath
 - Headache
 - Chills
 - Sore throat
 - Shaking or exaggerated shivering
 - Significant muscle pain or ache
 - Diarrhea
- Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for these COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their student to school. Students who are experiencing symptoms in a way that is not normal for the student will be kept home from school. Students who ride the bus must be screened by the parent/guardians before boarding the bus each morning.
- Teachers will monitor students throughout the day and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present in a way that is not normal for the student.

Presence of Symptoms

- Each campus will designate an office or room for the nurse with sufficient space to allow for social distancing (at least 6 ft).
- When a student displays symptoms of COVID-19, they should stay home or will be sent home.
- Calls will be made to parents/guardians of students that are absent or sent home. A determination will be made (based on symptoms and documentation), and the required criteria for returning to school will be communicated.
- Students who are ill will be removed from the classroom. Parents/guardians will be notified and should make arrangements to pick the student up within 30 minutes. After being sent home, students must meet the district defined criteria before returning to school.
- Students exhibiting mild symptoms who are able to complete work from home may engage in remote learning while absent from school.
- Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols for separation from students and other staff members, testing and returning to work. For individual guidance, staff members should contact the WISD Administration.

Confirmed Diagnosis or Exhibition of Symptoms

- Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate on any on campus activities. A Confirmed Case Counter can be found at www.weimarisd.org
- When a student or staff member receives a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, the district will notify staff members and parents/guardians of students known to have had close contact with a COVID-19 positive student or staff member.
Individuals that have been determined to have been in close contact,
 - i. must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed**
 - ii. may return to school if they remain asymptomatic.**
- **Close contact** (during the infectious period, defined as two days prior to symptom onset to 10 days after symptom onset) is:
 - i. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or**
 - ii. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.**
- **An individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19**, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - i. at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.**
 - ii. at least 24 hours have passed since recovery (NO fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);**
 - iii. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and**
- **An individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19**, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - i. at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.**
 - ii. at least 24 hours have passed since recovery (NO fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);**
 - iii. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and**
- **An individual that has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period**, the individual must either
 - i. obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or**
 - ii. Receive a separate confirmations that they are free of COVID via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location.**

Face Coverings

- Protective measures, including the use of face coverings, will be determined by the level of disease activity of COVID-19. The District will rely on data from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Colorado County and Local authorities, and Texas Education Agency to determine the disease activity level and the appropriate protective measures. The disease activity level categories below are based on the recommendations of local and state health officials. The District will develop a process to alert students, parents and staff of the disease activity level and when face coverings must be worn.
- Currently, all staff and students will utilize face coverings.
- For the purposes of this document, masks include non-medical grade disposable face masks, cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth), or full-face shields to protect eyes, nose, and mouth. Face shields may be superior to cloth face coverings in many circumstances, given improved ability to see mouth movements and improved air circulation.
- It may be impractical for students to wear masks or face shields while participating in some activities. Schools may, for example, allow students who are actively exercising to remove masks or face shields, as long as they maintain at least six feet of distance from other students and staff who are not wearing masks or face shields.

Social Distancing

Every effort will be made to implement recommended social distancing in the school setting. See *Work and Learning Environment* section of document for details.

Campus Visitor Protocols

Family ownership is encouraged and celebrated in WISD schools; however, during this time we must work together to find innovative ways to partner with families while keeping staff and students safe and healthy. Participation through virtual meetings and interaction will be encouraged.

Visitor Access to Building

- In order to limit potential exposure for staff and students, visitors will not be permitted beyond the school office.
- Families are encouraged to contact the office by phone rather than entering the building.

Visitor Screening & PPE Requirements

- All individuals entering the building and visiting the office area will be required to wear a face covering.
- In extremely rare situations when individuals must move beyond the office area:
 - All visitors will be screened through the use of a symptom screening form.
 - Physical distancing of a minimum of 6 ft. will be followed.

Disinfecting and Hand Sanitizing Protocols

Hand Washing/Sanitizing Expectations

- On the first day a student attends school on campus, the school will provide instruction on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices adopted in the local school system.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at the main entry to the campus, in classrooms, in the cafeteria and in common areas throughout the campus.
- Staff will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided each time students enter or leave the classroom.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided if students move to a different work location within the classroom.
- Students will be required to thoroughly wash hands after recess, before eating and following restroom breaks.

Supplies and Materials

- The sharing of supplies will be extremely limited. When supplies must be shared, they will be sanitized after each use.
- Staff will utilize disinfectant wipes to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces.

Campus Cleaning Protocols

Daily Campus Cleaning

- Each classroom and restroom will be disinfected daily.
- All high touch areas will be disinfected daily.
- Cleaning cloths will be changed for each classroom and common area to maximize room to room cleanliness.
- Custodians will utilize face coverings and will sanitize hands before moving from room to room.
- If in use, the cafeteria will be disinfected between lunch periods.
- Staff will have access to disinfectant wipes to sanitize working surfaces and shared objects after each use and during breaks in instruction.

Additional Cleaning Measure for COVID-19 Positive Cases on Campus

- If a staff member or students receives a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis, the school will close off areas that were heavily used by the individual and thoroughly clean the areas using an approved disinfectant, unless more than 3 days have already passed since that person was on campus.

Work and Learning Environments

Classroom Configurations and Procedures

- Desks or tables will be socially distanced as much as instructionally possible with a goal of maintaining a distance of 6ft between individuals.
- Class sizes will be kept small when possible.
- To the greatest extent possible, contact with individuals from other designated student groups will be limited.
- Group work may be implemented while maintaining appropriate distancing and safety measures.
- Any materials or furnishings that must be used by multiple students will be cleaned with disinfectant wipes following each use.
- Students will have their own designated materials and supplies. This includes individual bags of supplementary aids and/or manipulatives for student use that could also be sent home in the event of school closure.
- The use of outdoor space for learning will be considered when possible. Classroom groups working outside will maintain separation from other classroom groups to the greatest extent possible.
- The recommended procedures will be applied to all classroom settings, including special education locations when possible and appropriate. Students' individual needs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Common Areas

- Common areas include spaces that are used by multiple groups of students or staff for instructional activities, eating, play, meetings and collaboration. This includes computer labs, cafeterias, gyms, playgrounds, flexible spaces, campus libraries, conference rooms, workrooms and other meeting rooms.
- Campuses will develop schedules and protocols for the use of common areas, including how to sanitize space between uses. When needed, students will bring personal supplies from the classroom. All students and staff will be required to use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting common areas.
- Virtual meetings will be utilized when possible.
- In-person meetings will maintain social distancing and facial coverings will be required.

Restrooms

- Proper handwashing technique will be taught to all students and consistently reinforced.
- The scheduling of whole class restroom breaks is recommended to eliminate co-mingling of students across various classes and to ensure monitoring of social distancing guidelines.
- The number of occupants utilizing each restroom at any given time will be limited to mitigate the chance of exceeding maximum occupants per social distancing.
- After a restroom break, students will be required to use hand sanitizer before reentering the classroom.
- Restrooms will be disinfected at multiple times throughout day.

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Transitions, Arrival and Dismissal

Transitions

- Where possible, one-way traffic throughout campus corridors will be established.
- Walking pathways throughout the building will be designated “stay to the right.” This includes the entrance and exit doors.
- When possible, it is recommended that students make transitions outside of the building.
- For grade levels that implement departmentalization of subject areas, teachers will move to students for transitions in instruction and students will remain in their homeroom class.

Arrival

- Buildings will open at 7:30 a.m. with students reporting directly to classrooms.
- Students arriving prior to 7:30 a.m. will wait in cars with parents until the buildings open.
- Families of walkers who arrive prior to 7:30 will be contacted and asked to make adjustments to arrival times.
- When possible, separate entrances will be utilized to reduce traffic.
- All staff will be utilized for duty to maintain a line of sight in hallways and distancing of hallway cohorts.
- Visitors will not be allowed in the building during arrival.
- Campus-specific bus procedures will be established.

Dismissal

- Student groups will remain separated until students are called for pickup.
- Campus may designate staggered dismissal groups. (For example, staggering the groups of walkers, car riders, bus riders and daycare students will help manage student movement in the building and decrease the risk of potential crowding outside at dismissal time.)
- Separate exits will be utilized if possible.
- Visitors will not be allowed in the building during dismissal.
- Campus-specific bus procedures will be established.

Daily Schedule

Breakfast / Lunch

Depending on the number of students in the school, students may have meals in both the cafeteria and in classrooms.

Recess

- Staggered recess schedules will be utilized with classroom groups assigned to different outdoor areas for recess.
 - In addition to recess, classroom brain breaks will be implemented to ensure students have ample opportunities for movement within the classroom setting.

PE/Music/Technology/etc.

- PE/Athletic classes will be conducted outdoors when possible with classroom groups separated as much as possible. Appropriate social distancing measures will be followed. Students and staff will wear face coverings when transitioning to PE and recess but will not be required to wear them during exercise.
 - Music, Technology, and PE/Athletic equipment will be sanitized and wiped down after each use.
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Busing

- Students who need to ride the bus will complete a bus registration process.
 - In order to reduce the number of students on the bus, families are encouraged to provide their own transportation if at all possible.
 - A student exhibiting ANY symptom of COVID-19 may not board the bus and needs to remain at home. Students with mild symptoms who are able to complete work at home may contact the school for remote learning assignments.
 - All students will wear masks, sit in family groups, and use hand sanitizer when boarding the bus.
 - Morning Routes
 - Load most distant students until max capacity
 - Drop off at school and resume route
 - Evening Routes
 - Load to capacity most central students
 - Drop off and return for second pick-up
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Field Trips

- Field trips will be conducted virtually.
 - At this time, off-campus field trips will not be scheduled.
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Campus Events

- No in-person assemblies will be held in the fall.
- Technology-training sessions will be held to familiarize parents with district instructional programs.
- Meet the teacher, open house, parent conferences, etc. will be held virtually.

Junior High Remote Instruction Information

General Expectations for Remote Learning

- The goal of remote instruction is high levels of learning for all students.
- In grades 5-8, the remote instruction model for students requires a strong partnership between the teacher and family. Family training sessions to ensure families are able to access online resources and have the information necessary to successfully access work will be conducted during the first weeks of the school year, and ongoing, two-way communication between the teacher and the family is an essential component of the remote instruction model.

Remote instruction and activities are designed to ensure that students continue learning at the pace of the current Weimar ISD scope and sequence and gain the reading, writing, and mathematics skills essential to their future success. Student academic work will ensure engagement that is equivalent to direct content work that the students would be engaged in over a normal school year.

Classes within the Remote Learning will follow the schedule of classes as assigned.

In keeping with our identity as an outstanding school district, Weimar ISD will structure the students' learning schedule to require students to participate in synchronous and asynchronous learning. We will ensure open lines of communication between teachers, students and parents.

ARD/IEP Committees will determine the unique needs of students who are IEP-entitled in making support and service recommendations for students attending school virtually. The nature of special education interventions will likely require a heavier concentration of synchronous supports and services to ensure individual student needs are met.

Weimar ISD expectations for asynchronous learning

- Requires internet connectivity and proficiency with devices
- Flexible scheduling (minimum of 4-6 hours / day)
- Grading will be consistent with in-person and synchronous instruction
- Truancy associated with the failure to submit daily lessons
- Students show proof of participation in daily virtual instruction by satisfactorily completing assigned assignments to demonstrate evidence of student learning i.e. video, picture, or activities submitted as lessons and/or completing assignments. Please note, not all lessons must have an assignment, as there will be teacher discretion on the number of assignments, as they follow the WISD grading guidelines.
- Students and parents will communicate with the teacher when needing additional assistance, tutoring, etc.

All remote instruction will include:

- Daily interactions with the teacher
- TEKS-aligned curriculum resources that follow a logical course sequence
- Formal and informal assessments that ensure continued information on student progress
- Continued opportunities to review and reinforce essential skills
- Specifically designed resources and/or accommodations and modifications to support students with disabilities, English Learners and students in need of enrichment

If a parent who chooses virtual instruction wants their child to switch to an on-campus instructional setting, they can do so, but school systems are permitted to limit these transitions to occur only at the end of a grading period, if it will be beneficial to the student's instructional quality.