



Public Comment

July 20, 2020 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

SECTION 1: Comments Received as of 12 p.m. on 7/20/20

Can I assume children from the same family will be on the same week rotation?

- Tiffany Haupt

Is this summary for the entire 20-21 school year? If we decide to choose the 100% virtual classroom, will we be able to return to classrooms once a vaccine has been approved? Will our child be able to participate in marching band, concert band or athletics under the virtual option?

Will you have ""hall"" monitors who will make sure all kids are wearing their masks? Will there be consequences for those who are non-compliant? Will hallways be one way, will there be shields or plastic walls between any of the students or teachers? Will the week at home be mostly busy work or will the students be able to access actually teacher led discussions/work? Thank you for all your hard work on this and I cannot imagine that it has been an easy task. We realize there is no feasible way to keep all the students safe in a school learning system and that you have considered all options.

- Paula Craiglow

Since students will be in school one week and at home the next, has the board/school determined how they will handle siblings? It would be difficult if siblings are on different schedules. The hope is that siblings will be given the same A or B schedule.

- Beth Kuschner

With the proposed Week A/Week B is it acceptable for students to only learn half the year's curriculum? What does this do to AP students who have to take a national test based on the full curriculum?

- Chris Palma

Thank you So much for taking everyone's health into consideration while making these tough decisions. Although this would be challenging I am wondering if there will be any attempt to get siblings from the same home on the same rotation schedule. I have two kids in one elementary school and one in middle school. Thank you again for all of your hard work.

- Jennette Lawson

For the High Schools, why can't students in Group A go 3 days on, 2 days off, weekend, then 2 days on, 3 days off and have Group B do the opposite? This way the curriculum would not be taught away from a teacher as much as it will be with one week on and one week off.

- Chris Palma

How will schedule pick ups, photos and such be handled this year?

- Chris Palma

What are parents supposed to do that work full time ?

- Kristen Nardone

With the constantly evolving situation regarding COVID-19 and unknowns surrounding the timetable for a vaccine, it seems overly restrictive to require a year-long commitment to WVA, particularly when the district has already stated that it may shift from a Hybrid model to a Traditional or Virtual as the situation changes.

Has there been any consideration of allowing families to change periodically, such as at the beginning of the quarter? That allows the district the ability to forecast in advance, while not locking students out of returning to school if/when a vaccine is developed. This also allows parents who are capable from working from home during the current situation to return to work once restrictions are lifted.

Additionally, is there any mechanism for families who originally choose the Hybrid model to switch to the WVA if cases accelerate as they are projected to this winter?

- Michael Carden

Will there be a way to ensure that students residing in the same household will be in attendance at the same time?

- Jennifer Proctor

re: online learning option- Parents should have the opportunity to reevaluate as the situation changes. A semester-long commitment would allow parents to reevaluate and would be a significant enough commitment for the district to make plans surrounding changes in class size.

Re: lunch program: for students who receive free or reduced lunch, will they also be excluded from meal services if they need online learning? How do we make sure we don't have families choosing between keeping kids fed and keeping them safe?

Re: possible changes to plans- There need to be clear guidelines for when schools would close or move into a fully in-person model. Parents can't plan around what ""may be considered"" but we can watch trends and see when changes are likely if given clear guidance.

Re: school start date- moving the start date back further (perhaps after labor day) would be prudent to allow more time to see what happens with the current trend in numbers.

- Chelsie London

If Westerville City School District is going to open their 2020-21 academic year under a Blended Learning model, instead of a Traditional In-person Learning model, then I agree with the "A Week/B Week" schedule. Teachers also need the State of Ohio to indemnify them from law suits surrounding the transmission of the COVID-19 virus because of this In-person Learning and get back to educating our kids. The lack of Education and passing of students for minimum effort during the 2019-20 academic year Q4 was unacceptable. The giving out of Varsity letters to all students when sports were cancelled, during the same period of time, was also unacceptable. The real world does not pander to everyone

getting a trophy and neither should the schools. Enabling kids is not going to help them grow up to be productive, tax paying, voting, law abiding citizens in the community. I believe the week of virtual learning must be structured such that kids are sitting down in front of an electronic device and either using "Zoom" or "Microsoft Teams" to participate in class room learning, on a live basis. Plenty of other school districts used this approach and the structure is what kids need. The education of my two High School girls must take priority over the many fears and unsubstantiated rumors around COVID-19, so I implore the WCSD Board of Education to do the Right Thing and what they were elected to do, educate my kids! Thank you.

- Karl Priedeman

what will be done in regards to the all day kindergarten program? Will you be refunding those who do not wish to continue an all day 'hybrid' learning style, as it will not meet the expectations of the experience that is being paid for? Are there any additional plans at this time to help kindergarten children to be motivated to learn at a distance? Any plans to bring elementary age students in more? I truly do not see my child benefitting from distance, as it did not go well with the remainder of pre-k... in addition, one of the most important aspects of kindergarten is the socialization- this hinders a young child's ability to communicate with others.

- Lizz S

will siblings be scheduled on same week? Can we request that they are?

- Rebecca Wiggins

Will the district be putting siblings in the same A or B group? If not, will there be a process to move a child to their sibling's group?

- Jen Stoessner

The use of Westerville Virtual Academy should not be 100% commitment. Schools should let students return (to physical setting) once the COVID-19 pandemic situation is subsided.

- Wen Shen

How will the every other week schedule work for families who have more than one kid attending Westerville schools, and perhaps in different schools? Will the parents be allowed to decide to have them all together on the same week, if that works better, or split them up, if that's better?

- Missi Howlett

I disagree with the fact that the virtual commitment has to be for a full year. I would like to request the Board lower the time commitment for that.

- Kelly Armstrong

Please consider making the virtual learning a semester commitment instead of a year long!

- Chelsea Lavernuick

This distance learning model is a punishment for families of immune compromised kids/families who are not comfortable. Why don't they get an option to come back to school if the virus impact lessens? This is it fair

Also we have students in engineering classes and science classes where dissections have already been discussed, will these all be missed opportunities?

- SATIN HURLBUT

While I appreciate that there is a completely digital option for families who want or need to keep their children home, I really dislike that it requires a full year commitment. The current climate is ever changing and we don't know what is going to happen this fall/winter for better or worse. It would be nice to have the option to return the kids to school at the start of the next term if things have improved, but also, if the digital learning just isn't working for our family. One of the main reasons I want to keep my son home, besides to lessen his own exposure, is because I physically can, and the fewer kids in the classrooms, the less exposure the community has. However, if he really struggles with the online platform, it would be nice knowing I could get him into a classroom in January.

- Katie Meyers

Thank you So much for taking everyone's health into consideration while making these tough decisions. Although this would be challenging I am wondering if there will be any attempt to get siblings from the same home on the same rotation schedule. I have two kids in one elementary school and one in middle school. Thank you again for all of your hard work.

- Jennette Lawson

If the district plans on doing alternating week A/ week B schedule, how are you sorting out what children are in which group (by last name, grade, etc)? I have 2 children that are attending Westerville South, but with different last names. I don't want one going on Week A and the other to go on Week B, how can you assure they will be on the same schedule?

- Kristina Cassidy

Facial Coverings are not safe. they decrease breathed in oxygen. I do not want my children wearing them.

- Rachel

Given the proposed blended model of alternating weeks, it could be difficult for parents with multiple children being on different weeks. Will siblings be grouped into the same alternating weeks, so child 1 isn't learning from home while child 2 is in the classroom?

- Matt Peters

One-year commitment is too long. The factors and environment is continuously changing with this virus. We should have virtual learning commitment every quarter/semester to re-evaluate. This allows everyone involved to analyze the benefits/risks with virtual learning or in school session and more importantly analyze the progress of the kids. Please do not force parents to commit to a year. It is not fair, right or logical when there are so many unknowns.

- Bobbie Mohammadi

I'm wondering why Westerville isn't pushing back their start date like most other districts? To September maybe? A one week start date push back doesn't really seem to have a point. I'd also like to see the "virtual learning" commitment of a year be changed to a smaller time commitment. I'd like the option of being able to re-evaluate virtual learning after a semester or two. Things could be completely different at that time. Having to commit to the full year of "virtual learning" when things change so often seems extreme.

- Becky

Thank you for all your hard work. I know what a stress this can be. Please consider the AB DAY rotation. I am extremely concerned of the learning curve, day care and other details for an AB week rotation. I am also very concerned with lack of response from teach during the student's off week and lack of responsibility/motivation from the student. At least during the AB DAY rotation the student is connected with teacher throughout the week - questions will be answered, contact and follow up will be made more on a consistent basis, versus a weekly rotation. Please reconsider the AB day rotation. Thank you!

- Gayle Bey

Good Afternoon. I would first like to say that I commend the entire school board and district officials for coming up with this practical re-opening plan for our schools that shows you have the safety of all of our children as a top priority as we navigate this new world we are living in. With that being said I would like to ask that you reconsider the year long commitment to the 100% online virtual academy decision. Our family, along with many other families know how important face to face learning is for our children. However, many of us face this pandemic with additional medical concerns that make it important to keep our distance from the public during these times because we have no other choice. In our family we have two elementary age children and I, their mother have stage 4 cancer and am in constant treatment with medicines that keep my immune system compromised 100% of the time. We were very much hoping to have the choice of an online option for the first semester with the idea that we could re-evaluate mid year to see where the country was with a vaccine and then make the decision to keep them home or send them back for that very important face to face learning with the amazing teachers that work at our school for the remainder of the year. Having this year long commitment feels like we have an impossible choice now, keeping our kids home for the full year with the chance of the face to face learning maybe in the future or sending them back to school with the thought they may bring COVID into our house with possible devastating results before a vaccine is found so they can get that face to face learning opportunity. This all or nothing proposal is frustrating and doesn't seem fair to families who want the best for their family and who also want to keep their family safe while we are still in the same situation we were in in the Spring. I know there isn't a right answer that will make every single family in the district happy and we are just one family but this is the situation we face and it is frustrating and scary for all of us. We really do hope that you reconsider the year long commitment and change to a semester commitment in hopes that if there is a vaccine found our kids will be able to return to some semblance of normalcy later this school year. Thank you for your time.

- Margaret Butler

1)) To commit for an entire year of virtual learning is too much. Today's environment is changing. This virus is changing. We want virtual learning but it is more realistic to re-evaluate the situation every 3

months. We are asking to change the 1-year commitment to quarterly commitment. How can we make a decision for the entire year when we do not have the answers to many questions and we do not know if things will get better or worse with the upcoming flu season? We want our child to be in school but we are not comfortable sending him to school. Please please please reconsider forcing parents to choose 1-year virtual learning by offering shorter-commitment.

2)) Thank you for pushing the start of the school year a week later. But a week is too little. Please put it to after LABOR DAY weekend. Plus it will still be so hot in August and with kids having to wear masks and teachers too, it won't be as pleasant. "

- Alex Asghari

Will students who are supposed to be attending a magnet school next year lose their spot if they elect to attend the virtual academy? My first grader can't wait to attend Emerson, just like her big sisters did, and whether or not she will lose that spot permanently if we elect WVA plays a large role in our decision-making.

- Jamie Carden

Re: plans for fall. This is not what I hoped for and I have no idea how to make it work, but I realize all options are imperfect to some degree. So my question is: can you offer assurances that every effort will be made to put siblings on the same schedule? Putting siblings on opposite schedules will be an insurmountable obstacle for working families like mine.

- Molly Vogel

Can you reconsider the year-long commitment for virtual learning? Other districts are operating on trimester or semester commitments and that seems more reasonable given the uncertainty we're all living under.

- Allie Willemstein

Who will be teaching our children the during their "week of virtual learning"? If student attended M/T or TH/F, Wednesday would give teachers more adequate time to plan for dual class settings and time to clean classrooms. I'm shocked this was not even an option for the teachers.

- Abby Gibson

While I fully understand the district's need to put some parameters on electing to utilize the virtual academy, requiring families to choose that option for the whole year hardly seems reasonable. Employers are understanding of the need to work from home right now, but if things improve or a vaccine is released, employers will expect parents to go back to work, yet any parent who elected WVA will be completely stuck. Just as the district has written flexibilities into their plans based on current conditions, parents should be allowed some flexibility as well. Even allowing us to make that decision on a quarterly or semester basis would go a long way.

- Jamie Carden

1. Can parents make requests for siblings to be assigned the same A or B week?
2. Can parents who carpool make a request for their children to be assigned the same A or B week?

- Colleen Holton

Will families be able to make different choice for different children? In other words, can I elect the virtual academy for my middle schoolers but choose the blended learning environment for my first grader?

- Jamie Carden

1) August is still hot. Kids will not do so well for hours in a hot environment with mask. Please push the school year to September 8 or at least August 31.

2) How can we decide if we want to commit to the full-year of distant learning? While it makes it easier for the school board, it is not realistic to expect parents to commit for an entire year of distant learning. Every 3-4 months of commitment is more realistic. I want my son back in school but I am not comfortable with COVID-19. The short term commitment to distant learning is realistic. Please change this. It is ridiculous to expect parents to decide now for the full year considering we are all going into the school year with too many unknowns."

- Bobbie Asghari

I am very distraught about the one week on one week off program for my kindergarten student. At the primary age level going 9 days between seeing her teacher and being in full school mode seems to be educationally inappropriate. While I understand the need for hybrid options as an educator parent I believe this will not be in the best interest for my child. She will just get used to school and be taken out to readjust again. I think consideration to different gradeband levels is key in this situation.

- Lynnea Johnson

I have the following questions:

1. Is it possible to allow us to enroll in the virtual academy for the first semester and then decide for the second semester based on the situation as we get closer?
2. My child is at a Magnet school, if I elect to use the virtual academy, will she be able to return to the Magnet program once I feel it is safe for her to return to the classroom?
3. When will we see more details about what the virtual academy will entail?

I would also like to thank the Board and Westerville Schools personnel for doing an incredibly hard job during this time.

- Kerry Zwierschke

I worry that the Week A/Week B plan won't be doable for working families and will force more people to seek alternate care, thus increasing exposures. It is one thing to tell your employer that you need to work from home 3 days a week, but an entirely different thing to tell them that you need to work from home every other week, for an entire week at a time. I could see working from home 3 days a week without needing additional help, but by making school every other week, it practically forces most working parents to seek alternate care, thus exposing themselves and their kids to more people.

- Jamie Carden

Can you assure us that all siblings attending the same school will be on the same A or B week schedule? I have a 3rd grader and a 5th grader; I want to know that they'll be on the same schedule. Thanks!

- Erin Johnson

Will teachers be responsible for creating the online portion of the blended model, for their individual classes/sections, or will they be relying on an already established online curriculum?

Will teachers have time scheduled in to their week to contact students either live (phone or Zoom call) or electronically (email) to support learners at home (for example: 1st/2nd period: teach, 3rd period: plan, 4th/5th: teach, 6th: contact students)?

Will the school shut down entire classrooms or an entire school if there is a confirmed case of Covid-19, either in a student or a student's family member(s)?

How soon will we know which A or B section we are in?

Thank you for all you have done, and are continuing to do, to reopen the schools!"

- Jessica Hussey

I disagree with the fact that the virtual commitment has to be for a full year. I would like to request the Board lower the time commitment for that.

- Kelly Armstrong

I really would like the virtual option commitment to be a semester instead of the full year. My goal is to get my kid back in the building and my optimist side is hoping things will have improved enough by January for her to return to the building.

- Niki Ducey

Have parents been surveyed recently (after the June 28th survey) about their students returning to in-person instruction, especially since COVID-19 cases have increased in the last 3 to 4 weeks? You may be seeing an overwhelming number of parents wanting to sign up for the Virtual Academy if things don't improve or worsen from now until August 19th. Perhaps we should take a more nuanced approach by delaying the start of the school year until late August/early September and provide online instruction at first at least until cases of COVID-19 are more under control. Then a hybrid model could be applied later on depending on how quickly cases are suppressed or mitigated. I think this would be a better compromise between parents and staff who are concerned about in-person instruction, as well as those struggling with the idea of remote instruction. This would buy us more time to develop the Virtual Academy and provide teachers, parents, and students a clear understanding of what a day of remote instruction should look like and what the expectations are going forward. Surely our already existing online services like APEX could assist us with this.

- Doug Smith

The Superintendent just informed us that the Board of Education meeting will be hybrid in nature (i.e. streamed) in order to "ensure compliance with the state's recent extension of its mass-gathering ban." This ban has exceptions, including weddings, funerals, protests, church services, and now schools. While I could certainly see how some of these events could take place outside, helping people to social distance and preventing further spread, schools do not have this luxury. In fact, through contact tracing, we've discovered that many of these exempted events have actually led to the further spread of COVID-19. Given that many of the classrooms in the schools throughout Westerville are in older buildings with poor ventilation (i.e. tight spaces, no windows, inefficient HVAC systems, etc.), I'm absolutely convinced that

in-person instruction will increase the spread of COVID-19 and adversely affect the health and livelihoods of our students, staff, and their families.

- Mr. Smith

Correct me if I'm wrong, but it appears that the A Week/B Week schedule overlaps and teachers are being asked to instruct students in-person AND remotely at the same time, rather than one or the other. Given that remote instruction involves a different kind of preparation and delivery than in-person instruction, how will teachers have enough time throughout the day to accomplish all of these additional tasks while still providing efficient instruction? Adding a planning period throughout the day is not going to be enough. You're essentially asking teachers to work two significantly different jobs, in addition to enforcing social distancing, mask wearing, and cleaning regimes. Also, doesn't this Blended Model completely ignore the concerns some staff members have about in-person instruction, as you are requiring them to be in the classroom 5 days a week? Will every teacher interested in working via the Virtual Academy be accepted? What if there aren't enough teachers available for in-person instruction? Why would any teacher want to work under the Blended Model when the Virtual Academy allows them to stay home and focus on providing the best remote instruction possible, while keeping themselves and their families safe? Will there be financial incentives for working under the Blended Model considering the increased amount of work involved?

- Douglas Christopher Smith

Is there a plan to supply Chromebooks to families/students for the 'virtual' week of learning? Will student's be able to bring in their personal Chromebooks to avoid sharing and free up devices for student's? If community members have PC's/Laptops that may be of use to WCS is there someone they should contact for donation to help students and families? Will the Virtual option offer the ability to enroll at the semester level vs full year?

- Is there an additional cost for the virtual option?

- Will the virtual option be facilitated by WCS staff/home school staff to the student?

What are the plans to isolate/or close if there is a case determined in a classroom/school/learning community?

Will school supplies be individual or shared in elementary classrooms?

Can parent's request families outside of the family be assigned to the same A/B schedule to assist with childcare and off week scheduling?

- What is the process if this is an option?

Will outside playground use be available to students?"

- SARAHJAMGOCHIANEVENER

I was wondering what support for the special education students means.

- Jennifer

#1: Would I have the option to enroll my child in the online academy if I do not feel that physical school is being implemented in a safe way, or a way that feels safe for my family's needs? I would like to give in-person school a chance, but I need to know what the options are if it is not a good fit for my family, or if I become scared to send my child. There has also been no information how exactly what the school day will look like with safety measures.

#2: What will be the policy for enforcing masks be worn at school—what exactly will be the consequences if a student does not comply? Please give specific scenarios of the situation and consequence for each level (elementary, middle, high school).

- Laura

Please allow the virtual learning to begin for a semester and not require it to be a year long commitment.

- Courtney Deck

When will more information be provided about how the Virtual Academy will operate? Will it be the same teacher? Will it last all day "lecture" style? And how will art, music and PE be addressed? Thank you.

- Jihan Thomas

The only option is 100% virtual learning is for an entire year. I need the option to make this decision per semester. I was positive this would be an option.

- Jocelyn Lydy (Dylan Beatty's mother)

Will the district keep parents and guardian up to date on any increases of COVID? While I read the information on a single case in the FAQ section, it did not answer where or not we would be told that there is an increase in cases. For example, the day we start school, you would assume we would be at 0% and would be informed when the district or specific location has a 10% increase in cases?

Why are you not requiring temperature checks before entering the school? While this would be time consuming, I would think if you went with a staggered drop of time that it would be feasible.

Unfortunately, relying on parents or guardians to do this daily is a long shot. Too many parents already send their children to school ill.

- Paula Craiglow

I am very disappointed with the amount of extra time teachers are being given to do two jobs - plan, maintain and execute in class AND online learning. Forty minutes a day won't even be enough time to check in with online students, let alone create lessons that are more than just busy work. At the last meeting several of you recognized that this will be a lot of work for teachers and were considering giving us Wed to do these things. Now that's gone. To top it all off, the majority of you saw the educational value of the two day model being better than the week model. To be honest I feel like this decision is being made to appease parents who preferred the week long model even though it's not the best choice educationally. While I understand that parents have challenges with childcare, that shouldn't impact what's the best educational model for our students. If it's a matter of health safety, then wouldn't the schools benefit from a deep cleaning twice a week (Wed and weekends)?

Lastly, by starting on the 19th, that makes planning for the two cohorts off from each other from the very start. Cohort A has 3 days of in-class while B has 5. Cohort A also has 3 more in-class days than Cohort B does for the quarter. Why not start on the 24th and give those 3 extra days to teachers who are in desperate need of as much planning time as possible?

To say I'm disappointed is an understatement. This proposal expects teachers to double their workload with very little time to do it well and it's a slap in the face. We are the ones who are going to hear it from parents when the online work isn't up to par because we simply don't have the time to do it."

- Judith Mair

What is the plan and process for ensuring that students on an IEP are receiving the assistance required to be successful and meet their outlined goals? Specifically speaking about students at the high school level.

- Crystal McCall

How will the online learning week be handled? Will there be specific assignments meant to further education and will teachers be available to help students if they already have the other group of students in classroom?

- CRYSTAL MCCALL

What are parents that have to go into the workplace, supposed to do with children who can't stay home alone?

- Cierra

Why should children as young as preK have to wear masks? Won't children get their mask dirty with snot and saliva? Wouldn't this be a HUGE burden on kids so young that feel like they can't breathe?

- Cierra

I have a concern when it comes to cleaning between the half day kindergarten classes. If students are dismissed at 12:00 I will not be done dismissing them until 12:10. I have to get back to my room and clean the entire classroom, hands on activities, bathroom, computers, etc. I will need to set up for the next class AND eat. 55 minutes will not be enough time for this, that 55 minutes will probably be cut back even farther due to dismissing the first class and having to get the second class. So I am assuming this block will be closer to 40 minutes or less. Please expand on who will be doing the cleaning between these two classes and possibly giving us more time between these two classes.

- Melissa Borger

Being a kindergarten teacher I am sending students to the nurses office daily with all the different COVID symptoms because they are normal symptoms for allergies or colds. What is the plan on this? Typically the kid rests and then comes back to the room. I am not comfortable having that student come back into my room. Will they be out of school for 14 days, just sent home for the day, will the families in the class be notified that a student is experiencing symptoms, what if they come back the next day with the same symptoms? I want answers to these kinds of questions because we all know within the first week there will be students showing these symptoms. Teachers, students, and families are going to be living in fear each day.

- Melissa Borger

I find it troubling that the Westerville Virtual Academy is for a year investment from the kid and family when many of the vaccine models are looking to the end of 2020 or the beginning of 2021. It would seem the priority would be to have the children in face to face contact. Therefore the school district should allow each semester if not each quarter for the families to revisit the child returning to face-to-face school if possible for the health and well-being of all involved. I am confident that if the school system does not change that requirement many families will choose to virtual school else where and withdraw from the

city of Westerville and therefore you would lose funding for that kid and then when that family felt it safe to return they would just re-enroll them.

- Courtney McEwan

Couple of questions.

Will my kid (second grade) be assigned a teacher? Who will be his support throughout the school year along with us, his parents.

What kind of parent education will be happening in order to make remote learning as smooth as possible?

What's curriculum going to look like. Will absolutely everything be online or will we be getting workbooks/curriculum packets and info?

- Julia McClure

Why does the homeschooling option require a full year commitment? Other school districts are doing it quarterly, or for a 6 month period. Or is it guaranteed that if numbers drop and all kids can go back, then homeschooled kids would be allowed to go back as well?

- Kristan Onofrio

Will children within the same household, that are attending the same school (Elementary, Middle, High) be allowed to go to school and be remote in the same weekly group (A week/B week)? I.E. All siblings in the same household attending Blendon will all go to school during A week and have B week for remote learning or vice versa.

- Gwendolyn Wright

How is it responsible to have even half the number of children back into the school. This is a health risk for all staff members. How is it not considered a mass gathering. The board members can't meet in person but all of these children and staff members can? Please consider 100% virtual for at least the first half of the school year. For the safety of all. Thank you.

- Erin bates

I wanted to share my gratitude for the stringent plans for sending kids back to school safely. As a high risk parent with a baby on the way, I am extremely appreciative of a 100% remote learning option so I can keep my school-age child and newborn safe. Thank you. In addition, thank you for the rule about PK-12 requirements to wear a mask. It is the best and easiest way to prevent the spread and I fully support the decision and direction. Thank you for the care and time you put into this recommendation and I pray it gets fully approved and put in place as written. Thank you for your sacrifice and commitment to education in Westerville.

- Spencer Huffman

How will the school system help students with special needs and IEP's adjust to and get the best educational experience from this hybrid learning model?

- Amanda

Why does the homeschooling option require a full year commitment? Other school districts are doing it quarterly, or for a 6 month period. Or is it guaranteed that if numbers drop and all kids can go back, then homeschooled kids would be allowed to go back as well?

- Kristan Onofrio

As the in school method of instruction will be fluid based on the current level of Covid infection rate, so should it be for those who choose the online instruction model. Rather than a full year commitment it should be on a semester basis.

- Rene Orozco

When will we have the A/B rotation schedule? In years past quite frankly I've been less than impressed with communication from this district, especially around beginning year activities. As two full time "essential worker" working parents we need time to figure this out and time is of the essence. I don't think we are going to have the flexibility we had in March, April and May and both our jobs work still needs to be done, no matter what is going on. We are less than a month from the start of school and need some answers. The virus is ever changing and I think everyone understands the need to be flexible, however parents need time to work out how this is all going to work. Also, why, if you choose online schooling, does the decision need to be made now for the year? If a vaccine is discovered I feel as though I would be much more inclined to send my child to school. I can't make a full year commitment now and then have a vaccine discovered in October and be stuck with the home schooling decision if I'm made to return to work and stop working from home. On top of that I'm not sure my social butterfly child would enjoy and flourish homeschooling. We made it work in the spring and I enrolled her in a bunch of online camps in the summer to get her used to it but a 1/2 hour a week google meetup and some worksheets is not going to cut it for a full school year.

- Danielle Lambert-Woolf

When will we know which week (A/B) our child is in the building?

- Erica Logan

Will the district have Chromebooks available for any student who wants one?

- Erica Logan

Westerville already failed actual Westerville residents by not allowing equal access to chromebooks or lunches. The assumption that Westerville families are well off is a pure falsehood. Just because families don't qualify for free/reduced lunch doesn't mean they don't struggle or can afford to buy a laptop for each child in their home.

Again you chose to fail the students who actually live in the city and state that those with compromised immune systems are not worthy. My child has a heart condition and we have to protect him, as well as myself being high risk, it is abhorrent to think that choosing the online model is a pure punishment. They already can't come back to school and now they don't have access to food? What about the townships than you assume are poor and can't afford to eat? Why is your plan? Because that lunch/breakfast is necessary for some one these kids.

Shame on Westerville city schools, the BOE, and this administration. Make better choices for our kids. I pay 6500 in property taxes to this school/year. Where are my funds going? Because they clearly aren't here to help Westerville families and our children that are in this district.

- SATIN HURLBUT

1) Will the virtual learning rotation for high school students be actual online classes now with structure and live instruction (ideally from the classroom of the in-person rotation) vs. online homework only? 2) Have plans for Fort Hayes career center been announced (my senior is in one of the art programs)? They had not yet been announced with the rest of the Columbus school plans.

- Suzanne Brown

My child was selected for all day kindergarten and I have already paid the \$300 deposit. Since my child will not be going to school full time per the purposed plan, will I be receiving a refund?

- Amie Moses

It is completely IRRESPONSIBLE to bring students into the classrooms this August. This proposal ignores the CDC guidelines of not opening schools until there is a downward trajectory of new cases for at least 14 days. We have not had a single day of downward trajectory for weeks. If this plan goes forward, the health and safety of our entire community will be put in even graver danger than it is now. The only "responsible" plan is virtual learning for at least the first semester, and then see where the pandemic is going forward. #14DaysNoNewCases

- Geoff D. Mize

The reopening plan is a terrible option. Parents who are worried about sending their kids to school should keep them home. If half of the parents like this option that's great! The classrooms can be half full increasing social distance! The parents who want to send their kids to school have the right to do so as the public school system is a tax funded essential service. Give the option to send your kids to school or not and let the parents decide. I do not feel you should be the one making the decision for what's right for my family.

- Eric Whitehead

Will parents have the option to have student complete virtual learning until end of 2020? Then in January start blended model.

- Deborah Hampton

We are not comfortable with sending our children to school & are considering keeping them at home. We are also not happy that we must make a full year commitment despite not knowing what will happen in the fall/winter. Our children need school and socializing. But they also need to be healthy and so do the teachers & staff.

Please modify the full year commitment to every 3 months. Also, please push the start year to the first week of September.

- Sammy Smith

I am not comfortable with my child being in a classroom with other kids not wearing masks, as described in your description of students possibly eating breakfast in their classrooms. How do you plan to address this? I am also fearful for the teachers that are supposed to be in the room during this time. That's not fair for them or the kids. You need to fix this.

- Laura

1 year is an unrealistic commitment. If it is not working 1 year will cause harm to the children it's not working for while they wait to be able to re enter

- Kris Shear

Both of my kids have IEPs in speech. We would like to enroll them in the 100% virtual program But worry how speech goals will be met

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- Sammy Smith

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- Kris Shear

My child is signed up for College Credit Plus classes. If we choose the virtual option for her this year, will she still be able to take those classes? If so, would she still receive guidance from a Westerville teacher, or would she be expected to complete the class virtually on her own through Columbus State, since they are 100% virtual as well.

- Andrea Gyurko

Will the plan include keeping siblings/household members on same schedule? How/when can we let transportation know if we are able to transport kids to free up space on busses? Who will be teaching Westerville virtual academy? Is it possible to elect WVA for only a semester vs. The whole year?

- Jessica Stein

Will families be able to opt to move to online only during the school year?

- Erica Logan

Will you be sharing the plan around criteria which would push the district to online only?

- Erica Logan

As a parent and teacher in the district I am saddened that the option for virtual learning is a whole year option. I understand the problem with logistics for students re-entering the classroom half way through the year. However, as a two parent teacher family we can't commit to having our children home the whole year. We don't have anyone (who isn't at a high risk) to watch them. We could rely on family for a few months, but not long term. My husband and I will be school everyday (with interaction of 100's of students) and would be bringing home germs to our high risk parents who would have to care for our children. I feel VERY uncomfortable sending my children to school now, when numbers in Ohio , Franklin and Delaware Counties are on the rise. I have faith that these numbers will go down this year and would love my children to attend when its safe. I don't feel the numbers are safe to return right now. We were shut down when numbers were half the size. Right now our family is dealing with the stress of a COVID interaction and the tests, waiting and procedures that come along with it. I can't image going through this, tracing contacts and interactions with people when my kids would be at school. When I, as a teacher and parent filled out the survey form, the numbers were much different than what they are right now. I implore you to change the online commitment from a year long commitment to a semester commitment. I feel like I am having to choose my child's education over their safety and it isn't fair.

- Julie Porretta

If you sign your child up for Distance Learning, are you required to maintain that status all year or can you opt in to in-person learning when the Covid situation improves.

What does the school day look like for a Distance Learner? Will they stream online classes with others, have teacher check-ins, etc.

Also, will the content be available online for the parents to access if they decide to teach instead of having the child learn in front of a computer screen.

Will distance learners be in front of a screen all day or will they have the ability to work at their own pace?

- Linsey Bibler

In regards to student supply lists, will that be revised to be for only individual use and labeled so that children are not sharing items or will the lists stand as is and the teachers will divide materials for individual use and label them to avoid children touching all items?

- Sandra Ospino

Are parents able to for example begin the school year opting for the remote learn at home model and then decide to then change that and have their child attend school for the blended model for a later school term? And vise versa? Taken the virus risk level may decrease/increase throughout the course of the school year.

- Sandra Ospino

What will the Early Learning Center school year look like? Can parents opt to either have multiple children in the same blended model rotation (A/Bweeks)or if they prefer in different rotations? (so that every week at least one child is in school)

How will /can that work if children are attending different schools? (I will have one child at the ELC and one in elementary)

- Sandra Ospino

1. If the counties change to level 2 or 4, would the method of instruction change immediately, end of the week, end of the quarter? What if the levels switch multiple times throughout the semester, will the instructional model keep changing? If the counties downgrade to level 2, can we still require masks in our classrooms?
2. Also how are teachers expected to teach in person all day then give instruction/help to students learning at home that same day? Is this to be done outside of the contract day? Will we be given an extra planning time during the day to address online students questions?
3. Can teachers determine how much instruction they will get through during the school year/can online instruction be review/practice or does it need to be new material?
4. How specifically are we dealing with a positive student/staff case? Who needs to be quarantined? How will weekly A/B schedule be impacted? Will teachers need to use sick days if quarantined for themselves or a student case?

- Alayna Green

In the past, 6th graders started school a day earlier than 7th and 8th graders did they can get familiar with the school, how is that going to occur this year? My child is already stressing about the school year and it starts in a month! Why not delay the start of school to be consistent with other nearby school districts which in turn allows more time to iron out loose ends?

So many questions that need to be answered including bus stops, times, how the virtual classroom is going to be handled, monitored, who is going to be available to answer the students questions and when? Can live streaming occur or something similar so that all kids can get the same real-time education and teachers don't have to accommodate two types of plans, of course within privacy guidelines or obtain consent.? Are the curriculum for remote and in person going to be identical, are the school learning standards going to be the same as in the past (I'm concerned). If a family decides to participate in all virtual how and when do they inform the wsd? How is the child graded? What's the basis for challenging children who need more advanced studies? These last questions are for both virtual and in class teaching.

Is anyone monitoring the touching of masks or facial covering by any given person to help prevent issues? Our kids are still learning and will need time to adjust to wearing the garment.

I look forward to hearing your reply to all of these points soon.

Thanks in advance.

- Mrs. Latham

The Responsible Restart Plan & Public Response will be quite traumatic for many children, lead to substantially lower educational outcomes, and cause much stress for many parents. What is the justification for this plan other than a blanket statewide "recommendation" that you are not obligated to follow? Please provide evidence on adverse health outcomes for our K-12 Westerville students. Children are not affected by this virus nor are they significant carriers, if you have evidence to the contrary, please provide said evidence. The school district has the burden of proof to provide the public with information as to why the district is not meeting their obligations. The clear implication is that you the school district is taking these measures for reasons other than the kid's welfare and education. It is all very disappointing and a terrible example for our kids. The lessons we are teaching them in duplicity, cowardice, and the fear we are fostering in them are the much more long lasting and dangerous fallout from this virus.

- Frank Fernandez

Thank you for the time, care, and consideration that has gone and continues to go into making responsible restart plans. For the Week A Week B model, will teachers be required to both teach half a class face-to-face AND manage the other half of the class virtually? If so, how will they be supported to manage this? Or, will they teach in ""teams"" - with some teachers teaching 100% face-to-face teachers and others given the option to teacher 100% online? (The latter seems like a more equitable approach).

We appreciate the 100% virtual option through the Westerville Virtual Academy and look forward to receiving further details about the program. I would strongly encourage the board to consider an online-only option for just the first half of the year, with the option to either switch to face-to-face/blended/traditional during the second half of the year. Many of our families have at-risk members, and therefore the conservative option (100% online) needs to be taken. That said, students who opt/have to opt online will miss out on all of the benefits of face-to-face instruction. If pandemic conditions improve, it would be a pity not to allow those students the option to shift to the more optimal mode of instruction mid school year. (In the absence of this option, this will be especially poignant for students who are in their last year at a given school level). Thank you for your incredible efforts to shape this plan; they are much appreciated.

- Meredith Fossel

Nothing had been clarified as to how Westerville's pre-school is going to start. It's says they will have to wear masks (which I'm not against) however the online courses are for K-12. There is no way our children will learn from distance learning at a preschool level. Children with special needs still need to learn amongst their peers and my daughter is enrolled for the year as a peer model. The classes are already AM/PM and only 4 days a week. I don't know how much more that could even be shortened and the children actually learn. Also keep in mind that we pay a tuition for them to attend. Since it's so similar already to a smaller day care environment I feel like preschool should attend normally. Can we have some clarification on the responsible start for the Early Learning Center please?

- Jessica Welch

- 1.) Please release details on the number of children physically in each classroom based on this plan.
- 2.) Please consider offering the online commitment in smaller timer frames to allow families to better evaluate their needs and choice. I do not feel comfortable sending my children to school given the current rate of spread but asking for a full year commitment gives them no opportunity to return should conditions improve.
- 3.) If children are to eat in the cafeteria please provide specifics on how it could possible be sanitized between each group. Lunch times are already very rushed with older elementary students eating late in the day. Students should remain in their class to eat.
- 4.) School supplies. Please alter school supply lists which are already released to focus on what one child will need for personal use. The current lists still suggest group sharing which should not be an option. Please release communication on this so families can prepare.
- 5.) Schedule. While I appreciate all the work that went into making the decision for this model, please understand how impossible this model is for a home with 2 parents working outside the home. An employer is much more willing to allow a parent to work from home 2 days per week. They simply will not allow parents to work from home every other week. This is worst case for working parents. "

- Cortney Dalton

How soon will families know if they are in the A group or B group? I am asking from a child care perspective. Many families are seeking child care for their “off“ weeks. A home provider or child care center could serve more families if we knew which children would come each week. An “A” child and a “B” child would fill only one spot. Also, in the preschool where I work we have young moms who could potentially job share and alternate weeks if we knew who had “A” children and who had “B” children. This would enable them to at least work part time and contribute to their family income. Time is of the essence! Please announce this soon. Thank you very much!

- Debbie Nofziger

A district in our area lists hybrid learning a higher health risk than full in person due to increased cross-exposure by children attending various childcare venues on virtual learning days. Has Westerville considered this?

- Kristen Ford

When is Kindergarten Gentle Start?

- Summer Plantz

Chromebooks should be supplied to all students, regardless of income. If chromebooks are not supplied, the district should operate in person to ensure Westerville students receive the same quality education as other districts. Many Families are currently tasked with finding external support, which is costly and not widely available, for virtual learning days.

- Kristen Ford

I would like to request the option of reevaluating distance learning after the first half of the year. Especially if a vaccine becomes available. My children’s learning needs may change drastically after the first half of the year as well. I would also like to know specifics about the virtual academy.

- Cassie Mumm

For families with multiple children, does all the children have to be virtual? Or can I elect to send one to school and the other do 100% virtual. Also, is the 100% virtual a year long commitment? Or do we have the option to reevaluate after say a quarter/semester?

- Amanda Evans

I have a middle school child who has been identified as gifted in multiple subjects. If we chose the virtual academy, will the district still provide gifted services to her?

- Cassie Mumm

Please RECONSIDER making WVA a full year commitment!

- Shannon Snapp

Who operates the academy?

- Stephanie Cunningham

Are the students assigned a teacher?

- Stephanie Cunningham

Good afternoon.

I would love to see an option that we could start at Online Learning then, if things improve, be able to send our children for in-person instruction for the 2nd half of the year. My son is on an IEP for ADHD, High Functioning Autism and Speech. The services he receives through the school, are a godsend as we don't have the financial means to help him outside of the classroom for an entire year. We manage in the summer, but we struggle and in turn, he struggles. I'm lucky to be able to work from home for now, but my company has plans to return to the office in November. I'm not sure if I will be able to work from home at all after that. One week at school, one week distance learning is not a viable option for our family if I cannot work from home, and is also not helpful for those special needs students, who need constant, daily repetition of facts in order to learn. I know it's not all about me or my family, but I do know my situation isn't too far from a LOT of other families. What are we supposed to do when Childcare centers can't be at full capacity, nannies and babysitters are either few and far between or not financially possible, and our employee doesn't allow us to work from home, even 3 days a week, let alone every other week? I know you are doing the ABSOLUTE best you can in these unfortunate times. I also know the final decision hasn't been made. I'm just asking that you please consider all families who are in a similar situation as mine. I know you will do what is best. Thank you for all you are doing and have done for our children. You truly are a blessing!!

- Beth Keys

Are the students still associated with their home school (i.e. McVay)?

- Stephanie Cunningham

Is the virtual instruction live streaming or all self paced?

- Stephanie Cunningham

How do they handle advanced curriculum? For example a 6th grader who takes 7th grade math?

- Stephanie Cunningham

What about gifted classes?

- Stephanie Cunningham

How are students going to be assigned to group A or B for the alternating weeks? Will siblings in different school buildings be assigned to the same group to help parents with child care during the online learning weeks? If neighbors plan to assist each other with child care, is there a way to ensure that their children are on the same rotating weeks?

- Sarah Giannetto

Why are you requiring a full year commitment? With the way the covid situation changes so much would a semester commitment option be possible?

- Stephanie Cunningham

When students are on their School From Home Week(SFHW), what support will be available to them from Teachers if/when they have questions. What support will be available to Parents/Guardians to help assists with the same? Many Parents/Guardians are willing to help, but are not trained educators and either the Student, the Parents/Guardians or both will need support of some sort to make the SFHW positive and productive from time to time. All subjects are NOT taught the same anymore and information has changed since many of us Parents/Guardians were in school. Will some sort of instant help be available or something like daily office hours? I have concerns for the value of the SFHW and the frustration and stress that this could have for both Students and Parents/Guardians. I feel that having known, easy to use and readily available support channels for both Students and Parents/Guardians available would go a long way to alleviate frustration and stress as well as make the SFHW's as productive and positive as possible. I look forward to hearing about options already thought about and willing to help with ideation on solutions. Thank you, Ryan Dawson

- Ryan Dawson

As a concerned parent and an RN, I know that there are no good schooling options under the current circumstances. With the proposed plan, I do not feel that safety measures, teacher preparation for the change in the format of teaching their classes, or the status of cases in our county will be possible to achieve by August 19th. I believe pushing the start date of school back to a later date, possibly after Labor Day, to be able to accomplish these safety measures and teacher training would be more appropriate. My second issue is the virtual option being a full year commitment. Understanding that what may be happening in the hybrid classroom may not align with what is happening in the virtual classroom, the option for our children to opt back into the hybrid school setting at the semester change would be preferable. Giving some flexibility if the status of the pandemic has changed by then, home/work/childcare status has changed, type of schooling chosen for child is not working, etc. seems to be a needed option.

Before we have seen more details of the plans, I feel I cannot address some of my other concerns for now. One major concern would be the guidelines regarding exposure to sick students or teachers, or family members, and how those who have been in contact will be notified and affected as far as being allowed to remain in the classroom. Thank you for your time.

- Kate Polak

Before finalizing the plan, I recommend we get commitment from those families who will be withdrawing and homeschooling or opting for the all-online version of school. Once we know that final number, the plan might be able to be different. For example, if near 50% of families opt for all-online/homeschool, this would only leave 50% of the students left who could potentially go in-person every day. This would allow single parents, parents who are teachers, and other families who would struggle with the part-time schooling to be able to send their kids to school every day. Now that cases are going up, families may not be as keen to send their kids to school as they were in the Spring.

Also, in another state, they are utilizing middle school and high school buildings in order to spread out elementary school kids to be able to go every day. Middle and High School are all online. This sounds logistically challenging but another creative way to send some kids back to school completely especially those who need more instruction, direction, and childcare to allow parents to work.

Finally, please explain the difference between all-online from the beginning versus if school starts in-person and then becomes distance learning. Is "all-online" the same as "change to distance" or are they different teachers/instruction/format?

- Nicole A Johnson

If kids are expected to stay home when showing any symptoms, will the number of days allocated for missing school be changed? We do not want to get reported if we have to keep our child home whenever he is showing mild symptoms?

- Cindy Thompson

My student prefers to do the virtual learning for health and safety reasons. How would her IEP be addressed with the virtual distance learning? If we weren't given the option of virtual distance learning. And my student started to experience symptoms from allergies, sinuses or a common cold and needed to stay home to not risk the concerns of others thinking my student had Covid 19. Or was sent home from school because of those reasons will that affect her attendance? If so, why? When we need to be over protective with the issue at hand?

Can we hold the district accountable if the cleaning and disinfectanting becomes too lax? Will the district keep us up to date if any changes in any cleaning has been made or taken away, or if supplies run low? For instance, the buses will always be sanitized after each group has exited the bus? Will hand sanitizer stations be installed on the buses?

What will the turn around time be if a student or teacher has tested positive to make parents aware? Those students and teachers who have been exposed, will their attendance be marked because they were exposed and now have to self quarantine?

If my student is exposed or develops Covid 19 from school, when does the district step in to take accountability and cover the cost of the medical bills? If my student can't be allowed to do virtual distance learning?

Will the district provide a safety measures for teachers and staff for those who have health risks or family at home that have health risks? Will the district go above and beyond for their teachers and staff to provide support for those who are worried about returning to school/work?

With the option of Week A and Week B, what does the cleaning schedule look like?

Does the district have enough buses to safely do social distancing?"

- Lauren

I've always known Westerville City Schools to attempt to be an equal opportunity educational system, but two of your new policies are in direct conflict with that notion. Under 'Delivery of Instruction' it says, "the district will offer K-12 "Westerville Virtual Academy" as a year-long commitment for families who prefer 100% virtual instruction for their students." This is a great opportunity, especially for students or students with family members that have underlying health conditions; however, under 'Meals Services' it states ""Take-home" meals available to students on A/B schedule when at home for distance learning", but "Food service will not be available to students who opt for remote learning through WVA (Westerville Virtual Academy)". So what you're saying is that if a student needs or even just prefers to attend the Virtual Academy and they happen to be on the free-and-reduced lunch program then they're not going to be fed, even though Westerville City Schools clearly has the capability to send "take-home" meals to students who are distance learning under the Blended Model. Essentially you're forcing low-

income students to participate in the Blended Model, even if it's against their own interests. This will adversely affect low-income students and their families by putting them at higher risk of contracting COVID-19, particularly black and brown communities who are already being hit harder than the general population. In the end the Virtual Academy will only be populated by students whose families aren't struggling with food scarcity. This is clearly discriminatory and needs to be resolved ASAP. There is no reason why we can't provide students who are attending the Virtual Academy with "take-home" meals. How did we provide students with meals 4 months ago when the schools were shutdown and everyone was distance learning? How do we feed students during the summer months?

- DC Smith

A few questions:

1. When is the deadline to choose the 100% virtual option?
2. Can you change the 100% virtual commitment to only a semester instead of the entire year?
3. When will you assign families to Week A/Week B? (working parents need to know ASAP in order to flex their work schedules)
4. What will the "remote learning" look like on the week that children are at home? Do they interact with a teacher at all? Is it virtually watching what's happening live in the classroom? Are assignments given to be completed whenever throughout the week?
5. What technology is needed for success during the remote weeks?
6. For All-Day Kindergarten families, what will the prorated fee be since students aren't going to attend every week?
7. Will there still be a Kindergarten gentle-start? What will that look like and what days will it be now that the start date has changed?

Thank you! I know these are difficult decisions and you're doing your best.

- Kristina Isenhour

Going into the board meeting on Monday, I need all to understand that during digital weeks, their children will not have any instruction. We will be teaching full-time and in-person.

Teachers will have two ~30 minute opportunities each day to answer emails, grade assignments, video-conference, or otherwise interact with online students. The first is our planning period, but we are asked DAILY to substitute in other classes because our district is so short on substitutes. This will only get worse with COVID. We are also required to meet once a week during this time with our teacher-based-team for professional development work. It will be the exception, not the rule, that we will be able to help online students during this time.

The second is 25 minutes newly built into the end of the day, supposedly because busses will use the extra time between routes to clean (though our classrooms will not be cleaned between secondary classes). However, we have staff, department, committee, or grade-level meetings every Tuesday after school. We often have 504, IEP, or parent meetings after school. We will be able to utilize this time to help online students maybe half of the time.

That's 25 minutes maybe 2-3 times a week to assist up to 75 online students. Do you see where this is going? We have been preparing all summer to deliver meaningful online lessons if circumstances force us to teach remotely. There is no such preparation for having our workload doubled.

We cannot be expected to teach all day in-person and then put in another shift in the evening online. We'll already be reworking our entire curriculum.

I'm seeing so many well-meaning parents trying to be positive about this plan, saying ""I trust that our teachers will be able to make this work."" I sincerely thank you generally for that trust.

But please believe us when we say we cannot make this work without sacrificing a ton of learning.

- Beth Morvay

What is the wait time for collecting novels from one student/class and redistributing them to another? Can we invest in a streaming service so students can watch movies for class at home for free? Will we hire in-person teachers to replace those who will be teaching online (and what happens next year when they come back)? While teachers are teaching in person, what is the distance learning expectation for the other half of their students? How will grading due dates in PowerSchool or Schoology work (will rosters be divided)? Thanks!

- Michelle Feige

If a student is enrolled in a magnet school and we choose to do the 100% distance model, will they have a spot in the program the following year? Alternatively, if a family chooses to home school and not enroll with Westerville this year would they still have a spot in Magnet program?

- Elise Dew

#1: Please tell us exactly how and why it is safe to open schools when community spread is still prevalent? Wouldn't it be safer to start online with a plan to return to class once we are in a level 1 or 2, or when there are 2 weeks (or some number of weeks) of declining cases, or declining positivity rates at least. Why wasn't that considered?

#2: If groups of 10 or more cannot meet indoors, how is it safe for 15 students plus teachers and staff to be in the same room at the same time, and to have hundreds of people in a building with old ventilation systems at the same time?

#3: What ideas did you and the administrators come up with for improving ventilation and protecting teachers and kids who work in small rooms with no windows? Or will those rooms not be used?

#4: What was your experience like when you went into all of the school buildings and sat in the smallest classroom with the worst ventilation and thought about how the school day would be for the students and teachers in that room?

- Laura

Question: If you, the BOE, are unable to meet in person as a very small group, why do you feel comfortable sending staff and students back in person in much larger groups?

- Keri Coleman

I have two questions with regard to the WCSD Responsible Restart Plan:

1. What kind of instruction/connection/collaboration will students have with their teachers during the week they are remotely learning? That is, if a student is in school in the A week and then learning remotely in the B week, how much and what kind of interaction will the student have with his or her teacher(s) in that B week?

2. If a student begins the school year by attending school through the blended model, and then determines for whatever reason that the scenario doesn't work (i.e. mask issue, mental strain, not feeling safe) can

that student transfer to the ""Westerville Virtual Academy"" option? If so, what would that process include?"

- Carrie Manno

No where is the reopening plan there was mention of taking temperatures of students/staff coming into the building each day. Are we relying on families to do this? I do not have that much trust that this will actually be done. If the school is NOT taking temperatures can I purchase my own thermometer and take the temperature of each child as they come into my classroom?

- Melissa Borger

I have a lot of questions about the logistics of kids being out of school. Generally when a child isn't in school because of sickness, there aren't a lot of questions asked about the reasons for said absence. If my child has a cold/cough/fever, will there be some sort of way for me to indicate that this child has covid symptoms, even though it may not be covid? And, in that case, will the whole class be informed that they have been exposed to someone with these symptoms? Since the teachers are not isolated from either group, isn't there a concern that the teachers are a)being exposed to more than just one of the groups and b)can cross contaminate both groups through proximity?

- Amey Burkhart

All questions are regarding Westerville Virtual Academy option: 1. Will kids be grouped by home school and grade level? 2. How much class time per day will be required? 3. How much and what format will live interaction between teachers and students take? 4. Will elementary kids identified as gifted have interaction with the district gifted staff? 5. Class size anticipated? 6. What technology will be provided? 7. Will the teachers assigned be from the students' "home school"? 8. How is this option superior to online schools that existed prior to the pandemic? 9. Will students be able to work together on projects across the grade level? Thank you!

- Blair Everett

In the FAQ page distributed by the district (under the section about measures being taken to ensure safety of students and staff during a normal school day) it states that if Franklin County or Delaware County are identified as Level 3 that school-related meetings will be restricted to 10 or less people. My classroom will most likely host more than 10 people at least 5 times a day (potentially more if I must share a room, which happens often, and/or I am assigned a study hall). Please explain the thought process behind limiting one environment to 10, but permitting the all day, every day interaction to several humans more (my classroom could top out at 17 people- 15 students, myself, and an aide if a special needs student required one).

- Keri Coleman

Who will be conducting student mask breaks and where will they take place?

- Keri Coleman

1. Will students that opt for the safety of online schooling be able to participate in school activities such as sports, band, theatre should those continue?

2. Can the district please consider a more reasonable semester long commitment for those selecting fully online. As we know so much can happen and change in that amount of time. I know scheduling etc, is very complicated, but I think a semester re-evaluation of options is reasonable as we monitor the pandemic."

- Ashley Simon

Is there any chance that the district can rethink the year long commitment to the Westerville Virtual Academy? If a vaccine or cure becomes available, or if the infection rate drops significantly sometime during the school year, it will be very unfair to families that choose this option. Many children have pre-existing conditions, and they should not be penalized because parents are trying to keep them safe during these current conditions. PLEASE consider allowing parents to rethink the commitment either each quarter or at the halfway mark of the school year.

- Ella Leis

What is the district policy going to be for recess? Will students have a recess? If yes, what safety parameters will be put in place?

- Ella Leis

How are students going to be kept safe when gathered together in the cafeterias, unmasked, while eating lunch? This is gathering more than one classroom of students together, in one area, while they have no protection over their faces.

- Ella Leis

We are concerned about the safety of mask breaks. Under what conditions and parameters will mask breaks be given?

- Ella Leis

How will entering and exiting the buildings work for starts and dismissals? Under normal circumstances, students crowd together without social distancing during these times. And will there be backup plans in place if inclement weather impacts what plans the schools come up with?

- Ella Leis

What safety plans will be put in place for specials classes at the elementary level? Will students go to the specials teachers, or will the teachers come to them? Will students stay masked and maintain social distancing in P.E.? Will students stay masked while singing in music class, as singing has been shown to spread the virus more?

- Ella Leis

What are the details for the Westerville Virtual Academy? Will students have an actual teacher? Will it be run by Westerville teachers, or a third party? What is the deadline for parents to make the decision about enrollment for the all virtual option? Parents need this information asap in order to make these decisions.

- Ella Leis

For the in person option of one week on and one week off, what will the week of at home learning entail? If teachers are teaching the other half of the class during the off week for students, will students just be sent home with independent work, or will there be something more structured and planned?

- Ella Leis

Thank you for releasing the purposes restart plan and it's a great first step! My concern is with the teachers being trained on basic skills needed to use Schoology or whatever remote learning program is used. Are they currently being trained on things like how to post grades or possibly even how to upload a video? I have been told via Facebook comments that they have been I want to know if they are specifically being trained with technology skills and tips. Also, I believe a standard needs to be established for remote learning. Each teacher needs to have the same assignment submission process for students to turn in work. I'm not asking for it to be all 100 percent the same because that's not fair to the teachers but the basic stuff like how to complete and submit an assignment while remote learning should be the same across the district. If The district is one step ahead of me and has already been in discussions around these standards please provide more information on the outcome of those discussions with an explanation on the decision made by the district. Thank you. These questions are based on some friendly feedback from both myself and my middle schoolers experience last year! I know it's hard and everyone is doing their best! I truly thank you for everything you have done for the kids and parents during this time.

- Shayna Bellamy

"Wondering about remote learning in this "choose your own adventure" school year.

Will the students of remote learning meet with their teachers on a regular schedule as if they were in the classroom? At the end of last year, teachers didn't meet regularly every day.

One of my kids went to another school and was much more fortunate that teachers maintained similar schedules every day. They would meet with the kids during their regularly scheduled time (at the top of every hour), teach their class and give them time to work. This worked out really well.

On the other hand, my other two kids were in Westerville schools. Westerville teachers rarely met with students and my other kids did not fare as well.

What is the structure going to look like (for elementary, middle and high school)? For both remote learners and off week learners?

Seems like the remote "adventure" choice is being discouraged.

- Beth

1. If a student or teachers tests positive for COVID, how long will they need to be out of the building?
2. Will the same teacher instruct both digital and in person with the blended model and how will they accomplish this?
3. Will the digital model be taught by Alcott school teachers?
4. Will there be alterations to the allowable number of absences given the new policy regarding stay at home with cough or headache etc. Our daughter has seasonal allergies and get viral induced asthma so she coughs a lot throughout the year.
5. How can a kindergarten keep a mask on and learn all day without distraction?
6. Could you opt for a virtual model if blended isn't working due to sick policy/missing too many days?
7. Could the online commitment be semester by semester?

8. Will gifted children or children on the bubble for gifted be retested and given an online opportunity?
9. Where would a possible COVID positive child be quarantined until able to be picked up?
10. Will every time my child shows a possible COVID symptom will they need to be tested in order to return to school?
11. Which specific virtual learning program will you use and will there be a teacher assigned?
12. Will the children who choose to be in the virtual classroom from a single building be kept together or intermixed with other buildings?
 - Casey Curtis

I'm wondering why Westerville isn't pushing back their start date like most other districts? To September maybe? A one week start date push back doesn't really seem to have a point. I'd also like to see the "virtual learning" commitment of a year be changed to a smaller time commitment. I'd like the option of being able to re-evaluate virtual learning after a semester or two. Things could be completely different at that time. Having to commit to the full year of "virtual learning" when things change so often seems extreme.

- Becky

Who will be providing the daily instructional content for the alternating weeks of remote learning of the A/B schedule, as well as for the students who commit to full-time distance learning? Will it be WCSD or a third party vendor? If it is a third party, will the two syllabi synch as far as schedule and level of learning are concerned?

- A.J. Fox

How will the needs of advanced and gifted students be addressed in a full-time remote learning situation?

- A.J. Fox

6.01, Will the "Virtual Academy" consist of live instruction streamed by a teacher and be interactive. I am told that other districts are offering that for families who are uncomfortable with the distance learning model from last school year and who are also uncomfortable sending the children back to school at all.

- A thomas

I am writing to express my desire that the virtual academy commitment should be limited to half of the school year, so that those families who believe waiting for a vaccine is the best choice will be able to send their children back to school.

- Ryan Mumm

"If there's a plan for students to go back to school with the Week A/Week B. Why is the Board not meeting together while social distancing in a public space?

If its ok for the teachers and students to social distance in a school building. Why is the Board not showing the same thing, instead doing a virtual meeting?"

- Lauren

1. How will it be handled when there are not enough substitutes in the building? Will the substitute also be handling the students doing remote learning that week?

2. 40 minutes of divided planning time is not sufficient for creating in-person and online lesson plans, creating/gathering materials, and answering questions from students and families. Since teachers aren't being given authentic planning time, are we going to expect students to work on automated programs like Lexia and Dreambox when they are home rather than teacher-provided instruction?

- Nicole Grose

I appreciate all the hard work that you and others are putting in to create a plan to return to school. However, with the current situation there is NO plan that could responsibly bring students back to the classrooms. Any plan that puts even 1/4 of our students and staff in the buildings at a time would put the students, staff, and the entire community in grave danger.

Your letter claims that the Responsible ReStart plan ""reflects the advice of health experts and is based on what science knows about COVID as of today."" I must respectfully disagree in the strongest possible terms. This plan ignores the key conditions in both the Ohio and White House guidelines to reopen.

According to the Ohio Public Health Advisory System

[[https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/public-health-advisory-](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/public-health-advisory-system)

[system](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/public-health-advisory-system)](<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/public-health-advisory-system>), both Franklin and Delaware counties are currently at code red - Level 3 public emergency. This is defined as ""very high exposure and spread. Limit activities as much as possible."" Is putting 1000 people into Central High School limiting activities as much as possible? I think not.

As for the White House guidelines, we are nowhere near a safe return. According to the White House - Opening Up America Again guidelines as cited in the American Enterprise Institute Blueprint for Back to School [[https://education.nga.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/American-Enterprise-Institute-Blueprint-](https://education.nga.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/American-Enterprise-Institute-Blueprint-for-Back-to-School.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2g_r_dmau5FeC0_F5g5Yf0uDjuHCx98Ptd1ePqjHcRKnJdOCVjuCChHY4)

[for-Back-to-School.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2g_r_dmau5FeC0_F5g5Yf0uDjuHCx98Ptd1ePqjHcRKnJdOCVjuCChHY4](https://education.nga.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/American-Enterprise-Institute-Blueprint-for-Back-to-School.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2g_r_dmau5FeC0_F5g5Yf0uDjuHCx98Ptd1ePqjHcRKnJdOCVjuCChHY4)](https://education.nga.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/American-Enterprise-Institute-Blueprint-for-Back-to-School.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2g_r_dmau5FeC0_F5g5Yf0uDjuHCx98Ptd1ePqjHcRKnJdOCVjuCChHY4) see page 6, we do not meet the criteria for even level 1 (14 days downward trajectory of cases) which schools are recommended to stay closed. We are nowhere close to level 2 (28 day period of downward trajectory of cases) which the guidelines say is safe to open schools. The downward trajectory would have to start today for us to reach level 2 by August 19. That is very unlikely, especially since Minerva Park is one of the hot spots in Franklin County as of Friday 7/17.

In order to protect our students, ourselves, and our entire community, we must keep the buildings closed for at least the first nine weeks. We cannot be responsible for a giant spike in COVID-19 cases that is sure to happen if we open the buildings.

Thank you for your attention.

- Shelby

Dear Mr Kellogg and board. Thank you for your efforts in trying to create a plan that will be impossible to satisfy everyone. In this plan I still have some questions/concerns.

1. Why start on a Wednesday when we are doing week by week. It would be more logical to start on a Monday to keep everyone in a weekly schedule.
2. What is the plan for traveling teachers/teachers who share rooms with other teachers. I do both of those and share classrooms at both South and North putting me in contact with even more adults.

3. What happened to our extra plan time? Having a group of students in class and a group online is two full time jobs. In the spring with just online I was constantly being reached out to. I care about my students and when they are frustrated or struggling with something I want to support them. This plan does not give me time to do so. Which means I will be one of many teachers who is working in the afternoon and evening to help those students. Plus in addition to working with my own daughter who is in a different district and will be online learning. That is pulling us in many directions and not allowing us to take care of ourselves.

4. What kind of device support will be given to students?

Thank you for your time and energy.

- Lori Peters

What are the specific procedures for quarantine when there is a positive case in our building? Does the whole class, plus siblings' classes and teachers all have to quarantine? What different accommodations have you made for Annehurst where some rooms are too small to get desks 6 ft apart? What happens when students or staff refuse to wear masks? What happens when young children tire of masks or panic about wearing them? How will our curriculum need to change when we can't do Bridges games and lessons anymore? What curriculum will you be providing in place of what we currently use, since our current curriculum has students working together in groups? How will we do small group guided reading, the current best practice in elementary education? How will we allow students to have age-appropriate movement? What are the specific policies for extended teacher absences for the students? What if subs cannot be secured? Will teachers still have regular planning time provided by art, music, and PE specialists, in addition to the interrupted 40 minutes at the beginning and end of the day? What are the specific procedures for lunch? Will teachers have to eat lunch with students in the classroom? If so, who will provide the restroom breaks or will those have to be taken at the beginning and end of the day? What will be the policies for students using the restroom, which are not supervised? Will special education and intervention teachers such as reading, ESL, speech, APE, special education, and gifted still be able to pull their groups of kids? How will those children be serviced? Do you realize that the entire year's standards are impossible to cover, more now than they already were? What special considerations have you made for Annehurst, which does not have windows, walls, and doors? If there is a positive COVID case, will all the neighboring classrooms and/or cluster also need to quarantine since 6 classrooms are sharing air? Will teachers have to sign a waiver to absolve the district of responsibility if we get sick? If we don't want to come back to work, but we need the money, it seems that we have to sign our lives over for our paychecks.

- Libby Schlagbaum

6.01, Will the "Virtual Academy" consist of live instruction streamed by a teacher and be interactive. I am told that other districts are offering that for families who are uncomfortable with the distance learning model from last school year and who are also uncomfortable sending the children back to school at all.

- A thomas

How will special education be handled under the responsible restart? My son had next to no services during the spring. How will the District meet its requirements under IDEA for students in IEPs? - Heather Dardinger

How are we to provide substantial comment on the restart plan when the full plan has not been shared. We received a two page summary. When will the details be provided?

- Heather Dardinger

What will the protocol be for when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID or is suspected to have it? Will the class be quarantined for 14 days? How will learning continue during that time?

- Heather Dardinger

What accommodations are being made for teachers that are high risk due to age or health conditions? What if they have an at risk family member? Teachers should not be forced to risk their lives and the lives of their families.

- Heather Dardinger

How will mask wearing be enforced? There should be a zero tolerance policy for intentionally exposing others, i.e., a kid coughing on another kid on purpose.

- Heather Dardinger

For the upcoming school year plans, I have the following questions:

*What "local health conditions" will be taken into account when determining whether school instruction is in person, blended, or fully remote? What indicators and thresholds will dictate a change in approach, and how quickly will these changes be implemented after a threshold is reached?

*How will an outbreak in a specific school or classroom be handled? What threshold defines a cause for concern, and how will that impact the instructional model for that school, and for how long?

*How will learning be handled in cases where a student or staff member has potentially been exposed, but not yet confirmed positive?

*Will remote portions of instruction be synchronous or asynchronous? How will attendance be counted when remote?

*How will groups be handled within buildings and classrooms? Will students from different classrooms be regularly interacting at close quarters at common points, such as hallways or playgrounds? If there will be cross-interaction, how will that affect how an incidence of Covid is handled for the people in that building?

*For the Westerville Virtual Academy, will parents have an opportunity to preview samples of the interface, content and instructional methods to determine if this will be a good fit for their child, given that it will be a mandatory one year commitment for the student if selected?

*Will students who select the Westerville Virtual Academy have access to the same additional tools and resources as "traditional" students? (Ex: BrainPop, Dreambox, Lexia, if normally provided)

- Megan Allman

When will details be shared regarding the virtual academy? Much more information needs to be shared on how this looks before parents can make a decision. The two page summary is woefully lacking in detail!

- Heather Dardinger

Has the district secured adequate PPE for teachers/staff and cleaning products? Clorox wipes can't be found anywhere. This should not be on teachers or parents to supply.

- Heather Dardinger

Please consider making the online academy a one semester commitment rather than the whole year! I understand the district must be able to plan but so much depends upon what is happening with coronavirus spread in the community. Right now cases are rising out of control, so we are strongly leaning toward all virtual. But if the situation miraculously improves, that decision would be different.

- Heather Dardinger

How will gifted/advanced class placement be handled under the all virtual option (specifically asking about the middle grades, e.g., Advanced 7th grade Language Arts, etc.)? Will there be virtual advanced class options? If not, will my child be able to rejoin the advanced track later once school is back to “normal”?

- Heather Dardinger

Is there any consideration given for the children of teachers in the District? How are teachers supposed to work full time if their kids are only in school every other week, particularly if they have little ones? I realize all parents (myself included) are going to struggle with balancing work and online school, but it seems we could do better by the teachers that we are asking to do so much.

- Heather Dardinger

Will kids who choose the all virtual option be allowed to participate in school athletics?

- Heather Dardinger

If a student starts on the hybrid model but then circumstances change, will that student be allowed to later switch to the all virtual option?

- Heather Dardinger

Thank you for offering an all online option. This is critical for students with health conditions, or students living with at risk family members!

- Heather Dardinger

Will the virtual academy follow a regular school day (bell periods)? Or will it be flexible to allow kids and their parents to access the curriculum when it works for them, and better balance with work schedules, etc.?

- Heather Dardinger

How will ETRs and IEPs be handled this year? My son is due for his triennial ETR and his IEP expires in the fall and we haven't received any communication.

- Heather Dardinger

If enough families choose the all virtual option, might the district consider full in person learning for the rest? It seems like if there are enough families who have the ability/desire to keep their kids at home, then the hybrid model wouldn't be necessary to maintain physical distancing.

- Heather Dardinger

Why does the inline virtual learning need to be a year commitment? Why can't it be based on quarter/semester?

If the Week A/Week B doesn't go as planned, the numbers in the virus continues to increase. And everything gets shut down again, with virtual learning being the only way to do things. Will those who did the Week A/Week B go to the same virtual distant learning?

- Lauren

Ohio revised code says that all eligible students will receive the federally funded free and reduced meal assistance. Why has WCS elected to limit only those low income families from the same opportunity to choose from the same available learning options as other families who are not receiving federal food assistance?

- Emily Kegg

How can teachers possibly support students during their online week when they are teaching every day?

- Angela

How are mask breaks considered safe?

- Angela

What will happen if there is no sub for a teacher. You cannot split classes like it has been done in the past.

- Angela

What is even the purpose of pushing school back by 4 days? Most districts in the state are waiting until August 31 or after Labor Day to begin. It seems that would be the most responsible thing to do considering the current surge in the state and Governor DeWine's STRONG recommendation to continue wearing masks and social distancing in order to help get the increased numbers under control. I think we all know that pushing thousands of students and employees back into the classroom will undoubtedly contribute to a bigger surge despite safety measures. Also, why not start both cohorts with a full week? Cohort A will already be behind B due to their first week being 3 days and their second in person week being 4 days.

- Angela

I would like to see Westerville male families only commit to the year long learning either every 9 weeks or every semester. Would you please reconsider a year long commitment? We don't know what's going to happen, and if kids CAN safely go back to school at some point next year then they should. They should not have to wait an entire year to go back of parents choose to keep them home now.

- Erin Crum

Thank you for creating a 100% virtual environment for students and families who are uncomfortable to return to a classroom setting. What I was disappointed to learn about this choice is that students would not have access to free lunches regardless if they qualify. Of the ~200 students on my own caseload at WNHS, over half rely on the school's free breakfast and lunch for their nutritional needs in addition to

weekend food bags from other community organizations. I feel as though our school district has drawn a line between the economic status of our families. Those who “have” can make a choice but those who “have not” need to attend in person or go hungry.

Today I am asking the board to please take a deeper look at our ability to care for these families the way they deserve. If our food service is not able to handle it due to delivery, have we reached out to the other non-profit organizations who supply support? This might be a great way to get volunteers to deliver meals to key areas. Currently several students receive a Friday Fare bag with several meal ingredients to prepare. Perhaps instead of a daily breakfast or lunch we can look into a weekly provision that is similar to cover the school week. I feel like there’s definitely a way to solve this problem using the resources in and around Westerville if the board wants to make it a priority.

Meeting the basic needs of a child should always be our priority.

- Sarah Painter

Why are food services not being provided to families that choose the Westerville Virtual Academy option? Does this change if families qualify for free/reduced breakfast and lunch. If not, this appears to be an equity issue and discriminates against families that need to go to school to eat but may not be able to attend school due to health concerns.

- Melissa Paletta

I am disappointed in the released guidelines for ""Health/Cleanliness Measures"". While I hope a more detailed plan is forthcoming, there are many areas where these measures miss the mark. A recent study out of South Korea (where contact tracing has been done very well and cases have been controlled), found that although children ages 0-9 are not as likely to spread COVID-19 as adults, children ages 10-19 are just as likely as adults. Whether Franklin and/or Delaware county have an alert level of 3 (red) or 4 (purple), the research shows that it is not safe for middle school and high school students and teachers to attend school. Despite this research, WCSD has come up with a plan to send hundreds of kids and teachers back to their classrooms. An outbreak is inevitable and there is absolutely no detailed plan of what to do in this impending situation. If the outbreak is large enough will the district go 100% remote again? It seems problematic to spend so much time developing a hybrid plan if schools are forced back to a remote system on a moment's notice. What is a detailed action plan for determining whether or not to go remote - is it solely based on the alert level by the county - or is it a proactive approach based on our local cases within the district? ""Working with the local health department"" is very vague.

Research: https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/10/20-1315_article

Article: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/18/health/coronavirus-children-schools.html>

- Melissa Paletta

I am asking school board members to halt all police contracts with the city of Westerville and Genoa township until the community has been given the chance to provide input. The city of Westerville also just hired three new police officers.

Given school district folks aren’t deeply concerned about the impact of police in our schools on students, parents, and staff of color, what about the economic impact? There is no fiscally sound reason to enter into 3-year contracts for police in our schools in the middle of a pandemic. Temporary contracts are available. Even Columbus city schools decided to use this time to review the impact of police in their schools before entering into a new contract. Students started a petition in Westerville to remove police

from our schools. At the very least, WCS can act to get feedback from students, faculty, and staff of color in all our schools with police officers.

What have WCS SROs and DARE police officers done since March? The city apparently didn't bill WCS for the SROs from March through May.

Given the district plans for reopening, how does the district AND the city justify spending on the same number of SROs and DARE officers? Why were SROs/DARE officers not reassigned in WPD rather than hiring new police officers?

How much money does the school district, the city of Westerville, and the state attorney generals office spend to support DARE officers and SROs in our schools?

How do we get the aggregated police case data on all 300 incidents involving SROs and our children for calendar year 2019? The school district should be able to have this data to release for community review and analysis (with no identifying information). Police at the July 6 meeting reported: 300 SRO incidents and 65 arrests. Public records requests will not produce the data. Transparency and the district's continued justification of the need for police in our schools demands a community review of the data.

Why was there no mention of the contract during the presentation of the SRO program at the July 6 board meeting?

Some resources I hope our school board and all government officials involved in funding police in our schools will review...Westerville is not some utopian anomaly that doesn't have the same problems with racial disparities in school discipline and policing, period.

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/records/67-school-to-prison-pipeline>

<https://msmagazine.com/2019/06/12/confronting-the-school-to-prison-pipeline-in-the-classroom/>

<http://www.justicepolicy.org/mobile/news/8775>

<https://www.aclu.org/issues/juvenile-justice/school-prison-pipeline/school-prison-pipeline-infographic>

[https://www.aclu.org/issues/juvenile-justice/school-prison-pipeline"](https://www.aclu.org/issues/juvenile-justice/school-prison-pipeline)

- Angela Bryant

As a staff member, I do not feel comfortable facilitating ""mask breaks"" unless everyone is outside. The point of both students and staff wearing masks, is to prevent and lower the risk of transmission. If we are inside and allow students to take off their masks, then staff are immediately placed into a high risk situation. I understand that a ""mask break"" will look different in each building and at each level, but could you please provide an example of what you are expecting?

The CDC recommends that face coverings be taken off once you are home and washed immediately. They also note, ""Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth when removing and wash hands immediately after removing."" How will students take a mask break without touching their eyes, nose, or mouth?

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html>

- Melissa Paletta

Is it possible to conduct a dry-run (a mock school day) with a handful of parents in each classroom, prior to flooding the halls with hundreds of kids on the first day of school?

For example, some teachers may tape "lanes" on the floor, others will build plexiglass barriers, some may creatively distance the desks, use signage, etc. I'm suggesting that once all the safety work is done, the

school invite a handful of parents into each classroom to practice the operations of a normal school day: entering the building, hanging up backpacks, sitting at the desk, restroom breaks, going to lunch or recess, changing classes, art, music & gym, getting on the bus, etc.

This would give parents a better grasp of what is required of the children, and it would give teachers a chance to practice, identify issues, and share best practices.

- Hannah Dasgupta

I ask that you reconsider the year long commitment for the virtual school option. I would like to see this changed to give families the opportunity to reevaluate their choice after each quarter.

- Jennifer Watt

For families that choose the virtual education option, will there be opportunities for enrichment such as the gifted program. In what capacity would these types of things be offered virtually?

- Jennifer Watt

I would like to know if the district has genuinely taken the time to consider non-traditional spaces for learning. Specifically has there been any thought given to holding classes outdoors?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/17/nyregion/coronavirus-nyc-schools-reopening-outdoors.html?smid=fb-nytimes&smtyp=cur>

- Kristin Gbenah

If my child begins the school year in the blended learning model, would we have the option at any time to switch to the virtual academy?

- Jennifer Watt

If physical reopening of schools is meant to support the mental health of students, shouldn't the board/Westerville schools allow students enrolled in the virtual education option the ability to move to in person schooling if needs arise? Perhaps a commitment to the virtual option per semester or for a quarter but allow the option to move to in person schooling if needed.

- Ryan Rackley

Does the board/Westerville Schools anticipate or have there been any discussions of staff cuts and/or staff reductions as a result of the use of the 3rd party virtual online service?

- Ryan Rackley

It appears that free and reduced meals will not be provided to those that elect the virtual online option. As proposed, the online option appears to offer a disadvantage to those that depend on meal services. Can you confirm this is the case and if so, reconsider meals to those in the virtual option that qualify for free/reduce meal services?

- Ryan Rackley

How will you be determining which students attend which week? (Week A/Week B)

- Misty Lycakis

On the Responsible Restart Plan FAQ's it says "The district is offering the Westerville Virtual Academy as a fully online option. Check our website for additional information." I am looking all over the Westerville school district website and I can't find anything. What is the link to this additional information?

- Denise M Jergens

What happens if a student starts the A/B option and feels unsafe in school and parents want to move them to the Virtual option? How does that work?

- Denise M Jergens

If a student is in the A/B option and does exhibit one of the Covid symptoms but feels good enough to continue schooling at home while in quarantine, what happens with their schedule? Can they attend both weeks virtually and keep up with their school work?

- Denise M Jergens

Why does the online option have to be a full year commitment? I would like a quarter-by-quarter or at the very least semester-by-semester commitment be implemented instead. Please consider this.

- Denise M Jergens

-Will the kids need to primarily stay in the same room for six hours?

-Will the kids have recess?

-Will the kids be able to play at recess?

-Will learning time outside be utilized, if possible in order to decrease the viral load?

-Will you consider a hybrid model of splitting the week? Thank you!"

- Jennifer Edwards

I'm very concerned about the children being out of school for an entire week at a time. The first day back after 9 days off, the teachers will probably have to spend the whole day reteaching and reviewing material from the last time the children were physically present. This would create yet another obstacle limiting the amount of material the teachers can cover with students. Also, I think it will be especially difficult for elementary age students to stay focused and on-task for five full days of school right after 9 days off with a minimal/fluctuating schedule. Surely, attending school two days on/ two days off or every other day would be much more beneficial to the education process.

- Kristie Borders

If breakfast will be eaten in classrooms that means masks are off while in a classroom. Will that classroom be fully sanitized after breakfast to make it safe for the students to be in there the rest of the day?

- Denise M Jergens

Has it been considered to keep the kids (middle school) in a single classroom all day and rotate the teachers? This could minimize movement through the school and maybe lessen the chance of spread? Might help with contact tracing.

- Denise M Jergens

Please consider changing the commitment for the online option from full year to half year. With so many unknowns, this will give the kids a chance to return to in person classes if things improve. Thank you.

- Irina Ceaparu

From what I am hearing and reading, other schools are offering a 100% online learning environment but they are not requiring a year long commitment. That is unreasonable. Our children are used to school and if the online class structure didn't work for them 100% of the time they should be allowed to switch. I do agree that it should not be a back and forth thing but possibly by semester and only one change per child. It's too soon to pigeonhole or kids for a full year commitment. The same would go for people that want to switch to online only. Thank you

- Melody Petry-Johnson

How will virtual learning address gifted services? I have a 4th grader at Emerson in the A&T program and a 7th grader at blendon who is identified. Will there be different programs for them, or is virtual learning one size fits all?

- Jessica Stein

1. I submit that the mask mandate should align with the request from the governor and the mandates in place in the city of Westerville and Franklin County. The mandate does not apply to children under the age of 10 and evidence shows that children age 10 and below do not transmit the virus nearly as much as adults.

2. I request further clarification for the hybrid model - what will the virtual learning look like for elementary students?

3. What will the district do if many parents withdraw their students to homeschool them or choose the virtual only school sponsored option and enough space becomes available to allow children in-person, every day, every week instruction?"

- Jessica Koch

Food service will NOT be available to students who opt for remote learning through WVA .

This does not even affect myself or my family, but as a teacher in another district I find this stance VERY disappointing. Please reconsider this and address the needs of some of our most medically and financially fragile members of our community that choose to remain home to be safe. Please don't force these families back into the classroom, putting their families at risk.

- Ashley Simon

Please provide families who choose the 100% virtual option with the opportunity to re-join the classroom with their peers after a quarter or semester. Forcing parents to commit to a full year of online learning while the pandemic changes almost daily is unfair to families. If at some point during the school year it becomes safe to fully return to the classroom as normal, the online only families should be given the option to return their children to in person classes. The district's proposed requirement punishes families for protecting their children. Please reconsider your proposal.

- Andrea Tighe

On the weeks that the kids will be virtual learning, how will they be taught? It's it through K12 or some other way? I do not think the way the last few months of school were taught is a valid option

- Melody Petry-Johnson

Is it possible to conduct a dry-run (a mock school day) with a handful of parents in each classroom, prior to flooding the halls with hundreds of kids on the first day of school?

For example, some teachers may tape "lanes" on the floor, others will build plexiglass barriers, some may creatively distance the desks, use signage, etc. I'm suggesting that once all the safety work is done, the school invite a handful of parents into each classroom to practice the operations of a normal school day: entering the building, hanging up backpacks, sitting at the desk, restroom breaks, going to lunch or recess, changing classes, art, music & gym, getting on the bus, etc.

This would give parents a better grasp of what is required of the children, and it would give teachers a chance to practice, identify issues, and share best practices.

- Hannah Dasgupta

I appreciate all of the work the Board has been doing in regards to starting school. I only have a few inquiries:

1. Will an option be made to allow students to go to school after the first semester IF they are struggling with the online option, a vaccine is made, or our state's COVID numbers decrease?
2. If a student opts for in-person learning and then by the end of the semester a parent decides to keep their child home for remote instruction (for whatever the reason may be) is that an option?
3. Will the district change the breakfast/lunch options to make it available to all students regardless of learning from home or at school?

- Amanda

We absolutely must work with community partners to provide food for the children qualifying for free/reduced lunch who chose the Virtual Academy option.

We have been discussing equity in light of the Black Lives Matter protests, and denying food to children who need it is antithetical to our mission of serving and valuing all children and families. Let us put our money where our mouths are!

- Beth Morvay

As much as I respect and appreciate the work that went in to creating this restart plan, I fear our district leaders are missing important elements:

1) Exponential spread of this virus, especially among children. More and more studies and information have come out in just the past few days that children do and will spread Covid-19. While younger children seem to have fewer ill effects in the short term, we don't really know enough about this novel virus to say for sure that they won't suffer long-term effects. And the data on middle- and high-schoolers is very frightening.

2) Protective equipment and barriers for our teachers/staff. I was informed by one district teacher that front-office staff will have barriers but teachers were encouraged to ""get creative."" What a massive failure on the district's part to protect its teachers. We can't implement any of these plans without the teachers, but their voices seem to be the least heard as we prepare to return to school.

Separately, I understand how many factors and perspectives must be considered in creating these plans. I too agonize over the children who are food-insecure or who are being neglected when they don't have WCS teachers to care for them. But as we did this summer, when WCS filled the void and provided food to any family who needed it, we must ""get creative"" in solving those problems without putting our teachers' lives on the line.

I know many, many families are eager for their children to return to school. My children are looking so forward to being back in their classes with their friends and their wonderful teachers. But the plan has to be safe for everyone. The current plan just isn't. Please listen to your teachers and staff, the people truly on the front lines, about what is needed, and let's make sure when we do return, it will be as safe for everyone as it can be.

- Katie Lesmerises

I have taught in the district for twenty years. I have never been more concerned and afraid for my safety or for that of my children, my peers, and my students than I am now. The World Health Organization has clearly stated the 3Cs--closed spaces, crowded places, and close-contact settings--are places to avoid. Schools, even with half of their students, place students and staff in a closed, crowded, and close-contact setting. Secondly, some have been arguing that kids are less likely to get COVID, but we know that they not only get sick, but also may have consequences we are just beginning to understand. Reported in the Sun Sentinel, in Palm County, Florida, where 31% of children have tested positive, the health director notes that ""there is damage to the lungs in these asymptomatic children. ... We don't know how that is going to manifest a year from now or two years from now."" A study discussed yesterday in the NYT shows that older kids are getting it at the same rate as adults, meaning middle school and high school kids are at risk. In the article, it did state that some wonder if this is a fluke due to riskier teenage behaviors that increase the spread of COVID, but I go for walks and daily see teenagers congregating all over Westerville without masks and within close contact range. They are riding in cars together, hanging out together, and playing sports together. Even our own South basketball team has been asked to quarantine. I do not believe that the habits of our Westerville teens will be any better at protecting them or us than those in the study.

The district leadership said that, in terms of safety, the ""most important strategy begins with the individual."" I do not disagree, but I also do not work only with rational adults. I work with students who have panic attacks and/or social and emotional crises who cannot physically walk to the nurse's or guidance office without support. I work with children who are sons/daughters of the anti-mask movement who are likely to challenge our mask requirement. I work with children whose brains haven't fully developed enough for them to understand the risk they are putting themselves and others in when they decide to congregate or not wash their hands or take off their masks because they feel like it. (I can't tell you how many times I've been in the stall to hear high school kids flush and then leave without washing their hands.) I work with children who do not see why it's wrong to get into a teacher's refrigerator or sit at a teacher's desk or get on a teacher's computer or ""borrow"" something without asking. I work with children who get into physical disputes. And likely I will work with kids whose social and emotional imbalances are higher due to their own anxiety. These are not bad kids. They are just teenagers, and I love them. But I cannot control them. I teach and model good habits all the time, but I cannot control the variables that teenage brains offer. The individual student, without ill intent, could easily put me and my family at risk.

Furthermore, I know that parents routinely send children to school when they are ill because they need daycare. I am not judging those parents as they probably have no alternatives, but they will put me, my colleagues, and my students (and their families) at great risk. Again, out of my control.

I also have concerns that we are suggesting that kids will be eating in classrooms. That means that they will be in classrooms, unmasked. I do not feel safe at all for kids to be unmasked--particularly as they eat--in my presence.

The Q & A stated that ""district officials will comply with all privacy requirements."" What does that exactly mean? Will we not be notified when a person in our building has tested positive if we do not have them listed as a student in Powerschool? Will we even be notified then? As a teacher, I will be exposed in the hallway. If a student is not in my class, but we happen to have an interaction in the hallway, lunch room, or the library, which occurs all the time, will privacy rights mean that I may not be informed if I have come into contact with them? Knowing that our administration has withheld information related to safety from teachers in the past, I do not have much trust that my safety will be a priority over privacy. Yet I have a right to know if I or my family is at risk.

I have not been trained as a nurse. I am a teacher. I worry that I will now be put in the position to make determinations about who will be allowed to remain in my classroom. And then what liability will I have if I don't manage a situation a certain way and an outbreak occurs. If someone sneezes and I don't ask them to leave, will I become liable? Will I be asked to disinfect my room, and will I be liable if a student becomes ill because of something they touch in my room? I do not feel comfortable with the concept that I would be providing for my students' health.

Your investments in safety, while a start, are not enough to reassure me that my students, fellow staff members, or I will be safe when so much is out of our control. By law, you must ""provide employees a workplace free from recognized hazards."" I have little confidence that my workplace will be ""free from recognized hazards.""

Beyond safety, teaching an online curriculum takes time to prepare the resources and to figure out how to best present the material. For many teachers, this spring was their first attempt at much of this technology. We all learned a lot and grew. Yet very few of us feel like it's second nature to teach online. When we do not feel like we have the time to do our job well, we worry about the quality we will be able to provide to students and the way the situation will reflect on our professionalism.

While the shortened day is a small start, it also reduces our plan time for in class teaching. So, in addition to having less time to plan for in class lessons, we now have to try to squeeze in responding to online student and parent questions and planning in forty minutes. Last spring, it took me a minimum of three solid workdays with extended hours to prepare for online work--for one course. I do not feel confident that I am being given the proper time to even adequately do the requirements of my job in the amount of time you are proposing with this plan.

Having four days at the beginning will help plan the first few days, but we will also have that time filled with other requirements--like training. In addition, teaching requires a knowledge of our student population and their needs, interests, and skills. We cannot plan too far ahead without knowing who we are helping. We appreciate you pushing back the start day to give us this time. However, this doesn't solve the day to day workload issue.

In addition, teaching ten sections with half of our kids is not the same as teaching five sections with all of them. Anyone who has taught knows that each section will take on its own joys and challenges. We will be able to have good discussions in one group, but other sections will be quiet due to their time of day or class consistency. We may be able to move quickly due to the makeup of the student population in one

class and have to move exponentially slower in another. As a result, we will have to plan and keep track of ten different sections (what did I say in this class, what do I need to remember to cover in that one? how do I need to do it differently?) and, don't forget, we are teaching multiple preps. This affects everything from planning to entering grades to drafting multiple communications to parents for each update. Even trying to keep track of which student is in which section will feel overwhelming. I see this as a significant change to my working environment without additional compensation.

I recognize that the pandemic has exposed the lack of proper daycare in our country. While I know it is a real need, as I personally now have to figure it out, I also know that teachers are not responsible for fixing this problem when our health and safety are at risk. We are not social workers. We are not babysitters. We are not health care providers. Very few other professionals would ever be asked to put themselves in harm's way to fix the wrongs of society in this way. And our leaders should not be asking us to do so.

Finally, I am deeply concerned by the decision that families who choose the fully online option will not have access to food resources. We are now going to force our free and reduced population to come to brick and mortar school in order to obtain food. This population is less likely to have access to proper health care, is more likely to have at risk family members, and is more likely to share living facilities than our wealthier students. In addition, these children are also more likely to be bussed--and to be on buses where they are not properly social distanced for much longer periods of time than is acceptable. All of this puts them at more risk. Our lower income families should not have to decide to risk their families' health in order to make sure their children are properly fed, while parents in wealthier neighborhoods can opt for a safer option. This policy, while probably created for efficiency and cost reasons, is inequitable for people of color, immigrants, and lower income families--communities already hit harder by this pandemic.

In a recent email from Dr. Kellogg, he reminded us that ""our students and our community will look to us."" As a teacher of young people, I very much believe that I must be a role model. But being a role model doesn't mean that we silently accept putting ourselves at risk or devaluing what we do. It means we stand up for what we believe in--or to honor a legend--we get in ""good trouble"" to do what we think is right. What we are doing is not right, not safe, and not feasible if we want quality and safety. No amount of wishing it will make it so. With the increasing spread in Franklin and Delaware Counties, the only safe option is a temporary remote start.

In light of all of this, I ask you to reconsider your plan. Thank you for your time.

- Susannah Lee

Has a later start date for school been considered? Pushing back until after Labor Day to see how our numbers trend and give more time for them to go down?

- Kristan Onofrio

In regards to the A and B week options, I find this very concerning for the students. I feel as if an entire week remotely will be a disservice to the kids. Many students do not focus or learn well with the remote setting. I feel a better option would be A students attend Mon and Tues, all kids remote Weds and B kids attend in person Thurs and Fri. This would allow Weds to be a cleaning day and the weekend to clean after each group. Doing this will give each kid a break from masks and the stress of the remote setting. I also feel 5 full days of exposure to larger groups increases the risk factor of being exposed to the virus.

Please consider a different blended model.

- Andrea Anderson

1. What made you determine the alternating “A Week/B Week” schedule is best?
2. Will students receive real time remote instruction? If no, why not? What will remote instruction look like?
3. Will desks be cleaned in between classes?
4. Will siblings automatically be assigned the same alternating “A Week/B Week” schedule?
5. Are you planning to use WCS teachers for the Westerville Virtual Academy or a third party vendor? When will more information be provided about what the fully-online option looks like and what courses are available so parents can make an informed decision? Why must students enroll in the Westerville Virtual Academy for a full year rather than one semester at a time?
6. Is choir going to be offered this school year? If so, how will it be safe?

Thanks!

- Amber Poindexter

E-learning last year was insufficient. I understand that it was done in response to a crisis that no one saw coming. What will the E-learning on off weeks look like this year? Will there be more structure? Also, is the virtual school a better option for those wanting a more structured and accountable environment?

- Jennifer Harvey

I am very interested in the virtual academy for the beginning of the year but am disappointed it is required to be a year long commitment. With the virus currently raging through the 2 countries in which our district is located I would think alot of people would like to be able to keep their kids home but hope to be able to send them into a building when things calm down. Is there no way to do it quarter to quarter?

- Jen Harvey

Questions for hybrid model:

- If a teacher tests positive for COVID-19 are they required to quarantine for 14 days? Is their sick leave covered, paid?
- Will all the students of a teacher who tests positive for COVID-19 be required to stay home and quarantine for 14 days?
- Do all of those students now have to get tested? Who pays for those tests? Are they happening at school? How are the parents being notified? Does everyone in each of those kids' families need to get tested? Who pays for that?
- What if someone who lives in the same house as a teacher tests positive? Does that teacher now need to take 14 days off of work to quarantine? Is that time off covered? Paid?
- Where is the district going to find a substitute teacher who will work in a classroom full of exposed, possibly infected students for substitute pay?
- Substitutes teach in multiple schools. What if they are diagnosed with COVID-19? Do all the kids in each school now have to quarantine and get tested? Who is going to pay for that?
- What if a student tests positive? Does every other student and teacher they have been around quarantine? Do we all get notified who is infected and when? Or because of HIPAA regulations are parents and teachers just going to get mysterious “may have been in contact” emails all year long?

• There are approximately 15,400 students and over 1,000 teachers in the district. Even if only 1% to 5% become severely ill and/or die, that is 154-770 students and 10-50 teachers. Not to mention potential infections of student/teacher family members. Are we willing to accept that risk?

If we don't have good answers to these questions, then we are choosing to put our teachers and students in danger."

- Heather Dardinger

Is there any thoughts about postponing the start of school until after Labor Day? When there are typically gatherings. And this would also give schools and parents more time to prepare for the this new and different school year? Practicing with masks and getting childcare taken care of?

Also how is all-day kindergarten being handled? Will parents still be expected to pay for this?

When will announcements come out for whether students at A or B weeks?

- Margaret Miller

As a WCS elementary teacher I am incredibly disappointed by the restart plan. It completely ignores any concern of safety for teachers, but not only that, it is clearly crafted by those who don't have an understanding of planning time required for the job you are asking us to do. Currently in Elementary we are given 30 mins before our duty at student arrival (8:20-8:50), 40 mins at special, and with bus duty and late buses, none after school. That's about 70 mins of planning time on a good day. Why are we only being given "40 extra minutes" of interrupted time and expected to be able to plan for TWO separate cohorts? We would logically need twice the planning time, and we are only getting a fraction of the time. Not to mention, as the plan states if specials aren't happening, we are going to lose that planning time and actually have less than we currently have. Not to mention, that times is taken away at least once a week for meetings, TBT, IEPS/504s, PD, parent conferences, late buses, dealing with students, etc. Typically, for most teachers, that allotted time still isn't enough for us to do the best and have our students be as successful as possible, and we end up staying beyond the contract day. For example, I am almost always at work 20 mins before contract day, and 30 minutes to and hour after contract day-and I'm NEVER the first one at school or the last one to leave. So, here is my question: How can you ensure we are getting AT LEAST double the amount of planning time to prepare lessons for BOTH cohorts that are simultaneously occurring? Also, HOW MUCH TIME are we expected to devote to checking in with our online classes? When are we given time in the contract day to do this that is SEPARATE from our planning time? Teachers want this to work for our students, but the plan we were given makes us feel like we are meant to sacrifice our own mental and physical health and our own time with our families outside of work in order to appease the masses when in reality it is a plan that works for no one.

- Haley D.

Will all students and teachers receive a Covid test before returning to school?

- Michelle Feige

Please consider allowing parents the option to choose virtual education PER SEMESTER. Thank you.

- Leia Bamr

Please consider providing children who qualify for free or reduced lunches to continue getting food even if they choose the virtual option. I would be willing to volunteer at Mark Twain to help make this happen and I'm sure other parents would as well. Thank you.

- Leia Bame

If class sizes are small enough (due to children doing the online option), will students in that class be permitted to attend full time?

- Jessica Francony

Are you required buy law/mandate to follow the Ohio alert system to return to school or go online , for example if Franklin County goes Purple will you go online fully ? At what point will you return our children back to in person schooling? What specific indicators will allow our children to return to 5 day in person instruction with option masks?

- Laurie Schulze

Please list the specific reasons or requirements you could not reach to return to a 5 day school day? This way we can find possible solutions as other schools such as Beavercreek School district. It is a larger district and they are returning to a 5 day option along with online for those not comfortable.

- Laurie Schulze

We do not feel comfortable sending our kids to school at the start of the year and had fully planned to start with whatever virtual plan Westerville came up with. However, we hate the idea of it being a year long commitment and would really like for there to be a point (at least midway through the year, if not per semester) where kids can opt back in to the classroom if COVID case numbers are going down and things are heading in the right direction or if we just find that our kids are struggling with the virtual learning at that point. We feel like being home right now is the right decision but we are so worried to be locked into something that might not work well for our kids for the entire year.

- Sara Reat

From Hanby parents:

Virtual academy

1. Will W.ville virtual school teaching style and content be associated with Hanby school?
2. will students lose their places in Hanby if they take virtual academy route
3. How does the virtual academy work? Synchronous? Asynchronous?
4. How many kids will each teacher at the virtual academy be teaching, maximum?
5. If we start with virtual academy are we committed to it for the entire year?
6. In virtual academy How much screen time will there be per day and is there a workbook option
7. Is there a plan for the third grade reading guarantee/state testing for virtual academy students?
8. May we recommend that if we choose to use the virtual academy, as the situation is continually in flux, that we reassess after each grading period or at Christmas break?

Sickness

9. What is the plan to keep enough substitute teachers
10. if a kid or teacher gets sick, how and when do they close schools in case of an outbreak
11. will you close the school or just the class, in case of sickness?

12. do parents get notified of cases in the school if it is just a class.
13. Not all schools have a nurse on site every day - what is the plan if a student shows symptoms of Covid during school?
14. Will there be temperature checks?
15. If a student shows symptoms and goes home, is a Covid test mandatory before coming back to school?
16. Tests for coronavirus are taking over a week to come back, will the schools assume everyone (teachers, students, admin, janitorial staff) who has symptoms consistent with COVID-19 are positive?
17. Will parents of students in a class where someone has symptoms/tests positive for coronavirus be notified and how will it be decided who needs to quarantine?
18. What parameters will be used to determine if a school needs to shut down (number of students testing positive/with symptoms, number of teachers testing positive/with symptoms etc)?

In school blended learning

19. Will the kids need to primarily stay in the same room for six hours?
20. What will the students be doing during their “home” week? (I.e., is there a homework packet, online instruction, nothing, etc)?
21. Will the kids be able to play at recess? Indoor/outdoor?
22. Will learning time outside be utilized in order to decrease the viral load?
23. How they will split up the kids for A week/B week. I.e. what logical system will be used?
24. What is the contingency plan if the county goes to level 4?
25. How many children can safely be in the classrooms at Hanby/Emerson to ensure adequate social distancing?

- Aneeza Pasha Stamm

Please reconsider making the online decision a full year. Why not Semesters? Since our Leaders will not do what is needed, best, safest, and smartest for all involved you are forcing teachers and students to place their lives on the line. I have two kids with asthma. They are showing children with NO SYMPTOMS with Chronic lung damage from COVID. There is so much unknown about this disease! Opening schools will surge the numbers, and more people will die! Not smart! How can you seriously open schools and feel good about this? I know that no one knows what to do right now. What is best for our kids, teachers, and families? How can we commit to anything and feel confident we are doing the right thing? The online choice needs to not be the full year. We should all be starting online and then reopen if the numbers go down. That is safest. We should start slow- cautious and get the numbers down. Many of us with kids with asthma and other underlying conditions want to keep our kids home half the year to see if numbers go down- we will send them back the second half of the year if things are better. Right now things are not good enough to risk teachers and kids lives! What happens if there is a documented COVID Case in a school? Immediate shut down? What about teachers being infected in school? Do they have to use their sick time since they were forced back to work under these conditions that guarantee no ones safety? Teachers are being asked to do the impossible due to funding being threatened! Please listen to them because I do not think they are being heard! We love our teachers and our kids! What about school nurses? They are bouncing back and forth between schools? Most schools don't have a nurse every day. I plead with you to please think about all of these issues. I'm sure I am not the first to present them to you and I won't be the last. Thank you for your time.

- Karina Dick

Please make sure kindergarteners have remote options with support for parents.

- Jessie Lizak

Under the proposed alternating week plan, will full-time kindergarten families still be charged the full \$300/month?

- Heather Creed

I know that this decision was not easy for the school board to make however my 8th grade son has requested to PLEASE be allowed to attend school 5 days per week, every week. He realized after the last 2 months of the school year that he does NOT learn well online and NEEDS consistent in school instruction. Please allow kids that want to return full time do so. Please.

- Stephanie Wages

Will fees be reduced due to children only being present half time, or not at all if they choose virtual only?

- Jessica Stein

1. What is the expectation of learning for children during the off weeks - particularly for students who cannot learn independently (elementary school, pre-literate, require additional assistance, etc.) ? If there is an expectation - how will the school address learning gaps among students?

2. What will the school be implementing to specifically address emotional and social well-being needs/learning, knowing that “normal” peer interaction will be restricted?

- Katie Arnold

1. After starting school, if wearing a face mask all day becomes too stressful for my elementary student, will switching to the Virtual Academy be possible?

2. Will Chromebooks be used in elementary classrooms? Can I purchase one for my student to use in school and at home to eliminate sharing?

3. Will elementary students be eating lunch in the cafeteria or their classroom?

- Annette Kunkel

In regards to the 100% on-line option.

1 - PLEASE PERMIT 100% REMOTE OPTION TO BE PER SEMESTER. The requirement that students who choose an on-line learning model must give a full year commitment is burdensome. After all, students under the current plan are going to be 50% remote learning, and if a vaccine is developed presumably these students would return to 100% in-person classes. Why single out students making the greatest sacrifice for punishment? Other districts have moved to a semester or 9-week based commitment for those choosing 100% on-line, and this seems both more hopeful and reasonable.

2 - CONSIDER STARTING THE YEAR WITH EVERYONE 100% REMOTE. Trotwood-Madison City School district has done this. Considering that numbers are worse today (and trending the wrong direction) than when we shut down the district in March, then If it was too dangerous at that time, why is it safe now? What aspect of the virus has changed?

3 - PLEASE CLARIFY 100% REMOTE STUDENTS' ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN EXTRA-CURRICULARS. Why, yes, that is cognitive dissonance you're feeling. But my daughter gets a question, too.

General Comment:

On a more somber note. If we open the schools, there is a real chance that someone in the district, a parent, a district employee or a student, will die as a direct result. Can you detail and publish the district's plans for dealing with this? I understand that is a loaded question on the surface of it. However, what better way to show how serious the risk is, and how seriously the district is approaching this.

Legal-ish question:

Will families with students returning to in-person education be required to sign waivers of liability? Why or why not?

- Craig Chakford

I am an elementary teacher in the district, I have two children in the district (middle school and high school), and my husband is high risk for covid complications.

I am asking that you please consider starting the year remotely. We do not feel safe returning to school. If we can't have a staff meeting with more than 10 people, then how can we have more than 10 people in a classroom? The number of cases is climbing in Ohio and it is very scary. Teachers are not glorified baby-sitters during this time, nor should we be responsible for fixing the economy.

Please consider allowing families to reevaluate their choice of the Westerville Virtual Academy at different points throughout the year. A lot can change over the course of one school year. We are trying to make the best decision for both our children's physical health as well as their mental health.

I am very, very curious to hear how teachers are supposed to teach both in class and remotely, simultaneously, with the blended model. The shortened school day (split between before and after school) does NOT provide enough time to do both of these with diligence. I am honestly worried about the education that my own children will get with this model. And, sadly, I have a feeling that the blended model will be a better educational option than the WVA will be. I'm assuming the WVA will be similar to my son's summer experience taking Health on Apex. He HATED that and was miserable.

- Vicki Fouse

I have serious concerns about returning to the classroom. During a regular year my room was rarely cleaned. This makes me very worried about how clean my room will be this year when it should be sanitized every night. I worry about the fact that I could very easily be exposed to the virus and take it home to my family. I and my family are all considered high risk. I also worry about how much time it will take to teach both in the classroom and online. We lose time in the morning when kids come in early for breakfast and at the end of the day due to late buses. If we do not have specials, we will have no time to plan. I am teaching summer school and even online, it takes time for planning and helping answer student questions. If I have to do this daily on top of my regular work, it will take an additional hour or more to do it well. We need uninterrupted plan time built into our restart plan to make this work. I know that this whole process is a challenge but I hope you can see where teachers are coming from and help answer these questions and concerns about student and staff safety. Thank you.

- Sarah

Other districts have pushed out the start date further (Big Walnut starts Aug. 31) For instance, West Liberty school district has successfully created a school year from September to May the past couple years, which would mean overall less days in classrooms, but still have the required hours of instruction. Is this something the board has considered, especially as COVID cases continue to rise?

- Michelle

If the Covid cases continue to climb are you considering opening in a 100% online model for the safety of the kids AND the staff?

- Jen Harvey

The decision to go back to school seems to be resting too heavily on the role of schools as childcare and a safe haven for some students. While I understand that schools do function in this way in our country, that is not their purpose. Students and teachers are going to be out at risk so that the economy can get going and we can push to get things back to normal. Things are not normal. As a result of our lack of federal leadership the pandemic is out of control in the U.S. We cannot look at other countries who have reopened schools because other countries have flattened the curve. They are not in the same position we are. As a former teacher I can say I know teachers are asked to sacrifice a lot for “the good of the kids”, but asking them to sacrifice for the good of economy is unconscionable. I also take issue with the refusal of food services to students who choose remote learning. This means families who rely on these meals are forced To send their kids to school, even if they feel it isn’t safe. Don’t force people to choose between feeding their kids and keeping them safe during a pandemic.

- Emma Nelson

I feel strongly that food services should still be supplied for families that choose the 100% virtual plan. Food insecurity shouldn’t be the deciding factor for a family’s safety and education.

If the district will already be providing food options for children during their “remote week” - why can’t you supply for the fully virtual families as well??

- Kristina Isenhour

Will there be a process to switch A/ B weeks our child is assigned if we need to, for childcare reasons?

Will the district increase the maximum amount of days allotted. Typically a doctors excuse is needed after 10 days.

- Meagan Hogan

Please see above, thank you.

- Suzanna

If we are going to run on a week in/week remote schedule for students, why are we starting school on a Wednesday? That throws us off from the very beginning. Could we possible start on Monday, August 24? Are the teachers the ones responsible for disinfecting our classrooms between class periods? Are we going to be issued gloves and PPE to do this (and enough of them to use all day, every day)?

Why was the week in/week remote schedule chosen? After watching the last BOE meeting, it seemed that the BOE and Dr. Kellogg were both in favor of the 2 day/2 day option because the TEACHERS were in favor of it, as we felt it was the best educationally for the students.

If a teacher is exposed to covid-19 or becomes ill with it due to exposure at school, why do we have to use our own sick time for the time we would be off or quarantined at home? What if a teacher doesn't have that much sick time built up?

If one of our students becomes ill with covid-19, does that mean, due to contact tracing, all of that student's teachers and other students in that student's classes will have to be quarantined for 14 days?

The "mask breaks" that Dr. Kellogg mentioned in his reopening plan said that the teachers are responsible for determining those. Are we going to get direction on that?

The late start for students means what for teachers? Does that mean we will have training or we will have just time for planning, or both?

Although I appreciate that the teachers are going to be given a half hour of extra plan time per day, does the BOE really think that that 1/2 hour is going to be enough for us to be basically running two separate teaching plans (in person and remote) and grade it all?

The teachers will be doing more work than usual, as we will be planning for, teaching, and grading in-class work, and also planning for, and grading online work. While we are teaching in-class, how will we have time to address our online students' questions and help them? Will we be financially compensated for the double work we will be doing?

What will be the procedure if a student refuses to wear his/her mask in class?

- Ree Simpson

Please clarify whether or not students who need free or reduced price lunches will still have an opportunity access food even if they select the Virtual Academy option. To not allow this would exacerbate inequities and force low-income families to have no choice but to select in-person classes.

- Lauren Stowe Jones

I appreciate all of the work that has gone into creating a plan for returning to school. I know it has not been an easy task and thank everyone who has been involved. Much thought has been put into the plan, and some of my questions have been answered, but I still have many questions and concerns as an elementary music teacher in the district.

- In the responsible restart plan, it states that specialized classes such as the performing arts may be suspended at any time. What does "suspended" mean for students and for staff who teach those subjects? Music is an essential part of a well-rounded education according to ESSA and should be a required part of learning in any form this school year.
- We closed buildings in March due to a minimal number of confirmed cases in the state. How is it safe to return now that there is widespread community spread in Franklin and Delaware counties? Columbus Public Health has advised Columbus City Schools that in-person instruction should not take place until cases have declined for 28 days. I strongly feel WCS should follow this advice.
- I am thankful the plan mandates masks for all staff and students because it has been shown to effectively reduce spread. How will this be enforced by teachers and administrators? What is a teacher able to do if they do not feel safe teaching a student who is exempted from wearing a mask for medical reasons?
- Will staff or students with suspected exposure to Covid-19 be tested on site? Who will pay for testing if a student or staff is possibly exposed at school? Who will pay for multiple tests for those teachers who are exposed multiple times throughout the year?

- The FFCRA language is unclear in regards to paid leave in suspected or confirmed cases of Covid-19. Does this leave cover multiple quarantine periods for staff who are exposed multiple times throughout the school year? Some staff will teach only one or a few classes worth of students, while others like elementary related arts teach 20+ classes (500+ students), sometimes in multiple buildings. These teachers are likely to be exposed and quarantined more often, and it is not fair to expect every forced quarantine period to come from paid sick leave for staff who are exposed to 500+ students a week.
- What is being done to reduce exposure and prioritize the health and safety of staff who teach hundreds of students in multiple buildings? Teaching in smaller groups does not reduce the exposure to 500+ students. Will these teachers teach some or all of their classes virtually?
- Will all staff in a building be notified when there is a possible exposure or confirmed case in the building? In the past, related arts teachers have frequently been left out of the conversation when infections are spreading through a classroom, and in this situation, it is essential that they also know in case they have taught that particular class recently.
- If a teacher tests positive because they contracted Covid-19 from a student or coworker, is it covered under worker's compensation?
- What plan is in place for class coverage in case of long-term teacher absences due to Covid-19 or more frequent absences due to mild symptoms (for example, runny nose or other common cold symptoms that could be related to Covid-19)? In the past, other teachers have been expected to cover extra classes during planning or even teach 2 classes in one classroom to cover for teacher absences. This will not be safe this year!
- What is the protocol for someone who seems to have a "simple cold?"
- What are you doing to support the mental health and well-being of staff who are scared to teach and will be constantly stressed out and overworked by having to do double the planning and work (in person and remote) with very minimal extra planning time?
- Can the start date be adjusted to a later date? This would allow teachers to have more time to plan and be trained in new safety protocols, online platforms, etc. It would also allow more time for the Covid-19 situation to possibly improve. Lastly, with an August 19 start, the A group will start with a 3 day week, while the B group will start with a 5 day week, putting the A group 2 days behind from the start.
- Is one week on, one week remote an effective model for teaching and learning? I question if 9 days with minimal teacher support or interaction (because they are busy teaching in person) is a sound educational plan. Seeing all students 2 days a week in person gives much more time for interaction, relationship building, and quick intervention.
- If teachers are expected to teach their in-person group AND plan for and support their remote group at the same time, they need much more additional planning time. A few minutes before and after school will not suffice for doing double the work. Before school, students will arrive from the bus and be directed to their classroom, eliminating this teacher planning time. After school, many teachers have duty and/or stay with their students until they are picked up or on the bus, eliminating this planning time.
- The plan says that lunch will take place in the cafeteria. How will contact tracing take place with large numbers of students in one place? What about aerosol spread and ventilation needs in these spaces? Later lunch groups will be exposed to aerosols from earlier groups.
- What will the expectations be of students and staff during remote weeks? Who will teach, assist, check in, etc. with remote groups while teachers are teaching the other group in person full time? 40 minutes additional planning time is not enough to do 2 jobs!

- What are the plans for supporting our special needs and other most vulnerable populations? The plan released is very vague.
- With many buildings at capacity, where will quarantine/isolation rooms be? Will teachers lose their classrooms in order to provide such a space?
- Why is there no food service for those who choose the 100% virtual option? This seems discriminatory and all but excludes our low income families from this option.
 - Andrea Avers

Can we have consistent blended classroom schedule weekly, to allow single parents to give at home elementary instruction. And go to work the remaining days, so we aren't forced to choose between a livelihood or our child's education.

- Kathleen Ferguson

The week A, week B idea is not a good idea especially if you have multiple kids and their week to be at school is different. Have y'all considered that? I have 3 children one in elementary, one in middle and one in high school what if they are on different weeks I will have to find care for my young kids on the virtual week if it's different from my oldest. It's an huge inconvenience.

- Natia

With the City of Columbus Schools announcement yesterday that they are now considering not re-opening schools and using an all remote option for the fall, has our district considered, or would we consider, an all remote option?

- Rob Cunningham

- 1) Will the all virtual option for school offer honors/advanced classes?
- 2) How will parents be notified if a student/staff member tests positive for COVID-19? What will the quarantine protocol look like?

- Heather Huth

Can you share more about the precautions from a cleaning perspective? What is the plan for mask breaks for first graders? What is the protocol for sickness outside of COVID (like the regular flu) for both my child but then for the classroom as a whole? How often will you be re-evaluating the blended learning model i.e. if the levels of the county go back up or down will the model be re-evaluated every month etc? On the virtual weeks, what are the expectations for first graders? Will there be additional help for first graders or are virtual weeks parent lead? What are the protocols for specials and shared spaces? What will be done to create consistency between home and school? 5 days on 5 days off is a lot of time for little ones to get out of routines and we worry about the consistency for our first grader. If we find the routine is hard for her to manage after starting, is there the option to go to the virtual model? This is obviously new for all of us parents and students and we are trying to manage how to best navigate.

- Alexis Michalovich

What will instruction look like during the scheduled week off? Will students receive any active teaching via zoom or other technology measures during that time?

- Brooke Payne

Is there any way that the district could offer an option to commit to the Westerville Virtual Academy for the first half of the year and evaluate the COVID 19 situation and if a vaccine is available at that time.

- Amy Roberts

When can we expect to know more about preschool and special education plans? Virtual school looks to be offered k-12, what about preschool?

The return plan mentioned pre-k - 12 must wear masks, is all of pre-school really expected to wear masks? Are there accommodations for special ed?

How does week A/week B work as an option for children on an IEP? If parents choose virtual, how will IEP goals be accomplished?"

- Ashley K Huff

During the proposed hybrid learning, when students are on their week of virtual learning, will there be live online classes conducted by certified teachers?

- Jill Sharp

We certainly appreciate all the effort that has been put into this plan to keep students and staff safe. My primary concern is that there is currently no guarantee the childcare programs through the YWCA that are housed at elementary schools throughout the district will be available. My son will be in fifth grade and has participated in the morning care program through YWCA throughout his entire elementary school career. He loves the program and it allows peace of mind to my husband and I, both working parents, that he is safe during the two hours before school starts. It is absolutely critical for my son, our family, and hundreds of families throughout the district that YWCA still be permitted to operate in the elementary schools. I know a solution is out there that will work for all parties. Please allow the YWCA the space they need to operate. I appreciate your time and consideration. Thank you for all your hard work.

- Molly Hartnell

I ask that we be permitted to commit to a semester rather than a year for the fully virtual option. We hope that the state will do the right things in the next months so that school will be safe(r). Our kids will do better in school and we would like them back in the building as soon as possible. Completely understand the need for some consistency, however, so a full semester makes sense

- Rebecca Thompson

1) what will be the policy and practice for contact tracing and isolating And deeper cleaning when a positive case is found in the school?

2) How will music classes work?

3) when will additional details regarding the 100% online option be available?

- Rebecca Thompson

Approximately how many students and staff will be in the building following the A/B plan? How many students per classroom, roughly? Is it possible to switch from blended to the virtual academy if we feel

like it's a better fit? When can we expect more information re: the virtual academy? When do we need to make a commitment for our student?

- Anna Flood

With regard to the A Week/B Week scheduling plan, will families with more than one child be permitted to request same-week or alternate-week schedules? For example, we have two kids attending two different elementary schools. Will there be a possibility to request having either both kids on Week A or one kid Week A and the other Week B? Thank you.

- Scott Rex

Columbus City Schools overnight indicated that they may need to modify their hybrid plan and start fully online for the fall based on the latest guidance from public health officials. Is the board/Westerville schools hearing similar warnings from health officials? Has Westerville considered starting fully online for the fall?

- Ryan Rackley

For most families keeping the kids at home for distant learning will be very difficult however I feel the risk to their health is greater so based on current numbers we have no choice but to continue online option. My question is if they do come up with a vaccine that is successful, I feel that parents should be able to send their kids back to school if the number improve greatly as long as it is the beginning of the semester. Our choice to not send our children to school it's not only for my kids safety but also for the educator safety as well.

- Kimberly Whitten

I very much appreciate WCS' thoughtful return plan. Is it possible to push the start date back even further to Monday, August 31st, to allow educators more time to prepare for this unique school year?

- Markita Suttle

I am concerned that this plan is extremely incomplete, not addressing several main considerations for parents. The first for myself with 3 children in the district, is similar to the plan laid out by Columbus City Schools, will there be any consideration to siblings being on the same track ensuring all students from the same household are in school on the same rotation? As a working single parent, this is imperative for not only their efforts at developing a routine but for me to be able to keep my job so I can report to work on a regular schedule.

Additionally, as one of my students just completed Kindergarten and is entering 1st grade, I have seen major declines in my student's reading and comprehension due largely to missing much in person instruction. With the one week off design set to be "distance learning", will that include any live sessions taught by teachers or just be self guided tasks as before? This works better for older students but is very difficult for young children and hinders their problem solving abilities. This is also a substantially increased amount of screen time for still developing minds.

I would also like to add that the district seems inflexible with parents who may choose all online for their students as it does not allow them to choose to re-enter the in person setting at a later date.

- Tiana Purvis

With the proposed blended school schedule for this year, what is the plan for the all day kindergarten students as it relates to the costs for 1. All day Kindergarten and 2. Before and after care. Will there be a reduced rate being charged for the students, as they will only be at the school half the time? And what will be that reduced rate if any?

- Christopher Hasty

I do not feel comfortable for my son to return back to school even with the guidelines in place. Children cannot be expected to properly practice social distancing which means they could infect their classmates, teachers, and then bring it back to the household. The alternative days sound good in theory but how is that protecting the staff? This idea to continue school as “normal” is nothing short of medical neglect. With that being said what options will be provided to students whose parents do not want them attending school in person? Note: we must be more innovative in our approach of education as this may be our new norm. We have technological resources that can help aid in our students to still receive a proper education. I’m for the safety of our children first.

- Takiyah Jeter

- 1) How will All Day Kindergarten work? Is there still a \$300 a month tuition? It doesn't seem right considering that we will now need other arrangements for the week of distance learning. Are we able to switch to half-day at this point?
- 2) A year long commitment for virtual learning is a large commitment that doesn't allow for flexibility. We all know how fast things change. Many other districts have commitments of a semester. Could this be a possibility? We want to keep our children and others safe. But, want to go back to the schools we love as soon as it's safe to do so.
- 3) If we sign up for blended learning but we then feel like our kids are safer at home, can they switch to virtual learning at any point?
- 4) How will the schools work as far as changing classrooms, especially for middle school? Will the students be in small groups with teachers that rotate? How many other students will my child have contact with?
- 5) Will our students still have the opportunity for specials?
- 6) What is the contingency plan for when a teacher gets sick? A student? A school family member?
- 7) This is probably a given, but we need ALL the details of the virtual academy before our decision is required.
- 8) The Columbus Public Health Officials are recommending to do virtual learning until the area is on a downward slope of new cases for four weeks before offering in-person classes. This should be considered. As you stated at your last meeting, safety is the number one priority."

- Meredith Bryant

First, thank you for the incredible amount of work that went into this plan, it is appreciated by many. I'd like to add to what I'm sure many parents have commented about in regards to having to commit to online for the entire year. Asking parents to commit to an entire year of online learning when this situation is changing daily seems a bit harsh. I'm hopeful that the board will reconsider this and move to a semester only commitment so that as parents we can make decisions based on facts and data as they evolve.

- Melanie Murphy

I am hopeful you will reconsider your virtual online option to a half year option and then returning after Christmas break if the student feels safe. My daughter has so much anxiety about returning, but will be confident being in school if she sees the numbers dropping and not rising. I want her to have a full day school option/experience if this happens. Please don't deny them the option to be in school if they want to return. The kids mental health depends on it!!!!!! Thank you for your consideration.

- Amy Robinson

I'm concerned that food service will NOT be available to students who opt for remote learning through WVA. Can you explain more about how and why this decision was made? I am concerned for the many families this will affect and the children who will be sent to school despite possible risk factors, simply because it is the only way for their children to access a meal.

- Melanie Murphy

Regarding tonight's BOE videoconference: "The meeting begins at 6 p.m. and will be streamed over the district's YouTube Channel...to ensure compliance with the state's recent extension of its mass-gathering ban." Are schools considered mass-gatherings? Are classrooms considered mass-gatherings?

- Stephanie Schwartz

When will families receive their "Back to School during COVID-19" packets?

- Stephanie Schwartz

When will families need to make their in-person or virtual decision for the 2020-2021 school year?

- Stephanie Schwartz

Is it true that children who participate in the Westerville Virtual Academy won't be eligible for district sponsored food service? If so, can you explain how that is legal?

- Stephanie Schwartz

Will there be any costs associated with the Westerville Virtual Academy?

- Stephanie Schwartz

Will the Westerville Virtual Academy be taught by Westerville City School teachers? If not, who will provide instruction via the Westerville Virtual Academy?

- Stephanie Schwartz

If families opt for the Westerville Virtual Academy for the 2020-2021 school year, and then intend to return to in-classroom instruction for the 2021-2022 school year, will those families be required to re-enroll with Westerville City Schools?

- Stephanie Schwartz

What happens if a student complains they have a headache while they are at school? A sniffle? A tummy ache? A scratchy throat? Tiredness? Will they be sent home to quarantine for 14 days? If so, how long until all students will be in quarantine? These are common conditions for children – even in a non-COVID world.

- Stephanie Schwartz

What happens if a teacher gets sick (COVID or non-COVID illness but with COVID symptoms)? Who will teach that class? Will the class move to a virtual setting? Will the class be required to quarantine?

- Stephanie Schwartz

What PPE are you providing to teachers and staff? Will you be providing expense reimbursement to those teachers who are already procuring their own PPE for their personal safety?

- Stephanie Schwartz

If a student in all-day kindergarten selects the full-time online option, is this a full-day or half-day program and what are the fees?

- Summer Plantz

Has the district considered beginning the school year virtually, and then reassessing every few months based upon then current infection rates?

- Stephanie Schwartz

Does the district have any evidence of schools being able to safely open when infection rates are rising?

- Stephanie Schwartz

To those BOE members with school aged child(ren): What are your plans for this fall? Will you be sending your child(ren) to school for in-classroom instruction? Or will you use a virtual option?

- Stephanie Schwartz

A lot has changed since the June Family Survey. Will you be surveying families again?

- Stephanie Schwartz

I would like to ask the Board to reconsider its mask policy requiring students in grades PreK - 2nd grade to wear masks in the classroom. I have a first grade student that I am choosing to send to school next year because I believe that he needs the structure of a classroom, the emotional development that comes from social interaction from other students, and the instruction that I feel is best given from educated and experienced teachers. At this grade level, I believe that the wearing of masks will negatively affect the students' learning and development. Not only do I feel that they will be a considerable distraction to the class as a whole, I believe that they will hinder the students' individual ability to focus on their work. Additionally, at this young age, many students are quite sensitive, and I believe they will face emotional distress if teachers are continually reminding, and at times yelling at, students to keep/put their masks on, even when they are extremely uncomfortable. Therefore, at this age group, I believe that the risks of wearing masks in the classroom are greater than the risk of catching or sharing the virus.

- Abby Hughes

I understand limiting the number of children in the building. My question is around the remote learning time. From a business perspective we use web x, teams, zoom to have face to face meetings. Was consideration given to use some sort of platform like this so the week kids are at home they could watch

the curriculum live? Keep the same schedule/curriculum moving it's just a remote lecture versus having the kids work on their own for a week. The remote learning was not as effective as having a teacher lecture or share assignments. I am concerned that if we do not keep the same pace and/or schedule, kids will fall behind.

- Kim Daniel

Will a negative COVID test be required for every runny nose?

Are you aware of the cross reactivity for each FDA approved test and the recent investigations into the increased numbers of false positives?

Will you require a negative COVID result from these unreliable swab tests or foot the bill for the reliable test that requires a blood draw?

*(For reference, every brand's testing pamphlet is available through the FDA and all include a laundry list of factors that cause false positive results, ALL swab tests are cross reactive to other coronaviruses aka the common cold, a recent flu vaccine, a recent whooping cough vaccine, acetaminophen, caffeine, biotin, the RH factor, HIV, etc. etc. etc.)

Will you hire someone to investigate the children who are attending Westerville City Schools, but do not live here? This has become an increased problem but never seems to be dealt with. Have you considered this to further reduce over crowded classrooms?

How will you meet your end of my child's IEP agreement?

How do you expect teachers to teach in person and online at the same time?

If I choose the week on/week off option will you give me half my money back?

What will you say when children die because parents are forced to leave them home alone because they have to work?

Have you considered outdoor classrooms?

Have you considered pushing back the start date significantly, rather than rush into this unstable plan?

Are you going to ask for more money next year after you waste it all this year buying masks and Chromebooks for kids that don't really live in the district?

How will you protect my child online, when your safety and monitoring does not extend past your in-building network?

Are you purchasing computers and monitoring software for every child in the district? OR will you continue to use the free GSuite for education which does not enable you to monitor chat history on privately encrypted home networks?

- Marcia Lewis

Were different models for different age groups considered? For example, logistics and exposure levels for high school in-person instruction are much different than for elementary school. The safety concerns are also different at different age levels.

What factors would lead the board to consider pushing back the start of in-person instruction, either by starting the school year later or starting in a fully remote model?

- Smith

For students on the A/B week learning plan - what will the remote learning look like during the week they are not physically in the school? Will it be instructional learning? Will it be the same teacher they see during the week they are in school? if it will be someone else, what level of coordination will occur

between that teacher and the primary teacher? Are you worried students will slide back or regress during the week they are not in the physical classroom? Lastly, Has there been any consideration for allowing families to opt in to physical in the classroom learning and allowing those not comfortable with that set up to opt out to virtual only?

- Marissa Walter

1. Is the virtual learning only offered at certain times, or can you choose when it is most convenient to log on and complete it?

2. Is it continuous, like virtual school starts at 9 and ends at 3, or more scattered throughout the day?

My 1st grader daughter has food allergies. If she goes to school in a mask or face covering and starts to have a reaction, it would cover over her mouth and face where the initial reaction of a rash and hives would start and may make it harder to breathe and stay calm. She may say her tummy hurts, but without someone else seeing the visual reaction, it literally may be the difference between life and death as all reactions are different and food labels change or may even omit ingredients now.

Thank you so much for all you are doing to keep our kids and the teachers safe. There is no right answer for everyone, so we appreciate your hard work and dedication.

- Rachel Amidon

What exactly will the at-home learning look like? Will there be actual instruction during the weeks at home via video? I hope the work will be a mix of pencil and paper and computer work.

- Molly Goad

What is the plan if someone in the classroom tests positive for Covid-19?

- Molly Goad

If you start the school year doing either the Virtual Academy or the Blended Model, will you have the option to switch at any point during the school year? Such as the the quarter or semester break? Or, are you locked in no matter what?

- Brian Goad

Is there something – and what is that something – that would cause the schools to be shut down again and moved to virtual learning? A Level Four in Ohio COVID-19 Risk Level? And, if that happened, would the virtual learning be the Virtual Academy or would it be with their teachers?

- Brian Goad

Will siblings be on the same schedule? Are we able to request to be on the same schedule as a friend or neighbor? Some families are hoping to team up during the home weeks.

- Molly Goad

For the Virtual Academy, will students have some teacher that is responsible for them and they can ask questions of and interact with? Or, besides what's on the screen, does the reaming responsibility fall to the parents? What is expected of the parents for the Virtual Academy?

- Brian Goad

Can we please have an update about chromebooks for next year?

- Victoria Cook

Transportation, will the normal assigned bus stops remain? Or will we be driving to a particular location for drop off and pick/ up? Classroom, will the online week be with the same teacher? Will there be a camera in the classroom that students will follow along the days they are to be home? Will my elementary child be the same days as my high schooler?

- Cindy

Will the district ensure that siblings are scheduled on the same A/B week? Is there an opportunity for students to request to be scheduled on the same week as another student for ease of transition and help for parents during this time? This may help some families like mine where we are helping another family and vice versa manage work and home schedule with pick ups/drop offs and watching kids when needed.

- Stacey Brooks

The primary responsibility of our school district is to keep all students and staff members safe. Certainly giving our students a great education is also a significant goal. However, given the current situation of facing a world-wide pandemic, ensuring the safety of everyone should be our focus at this time. Our district can give students an education online, as we did in Q4 of last year. While that type of education may not be perfect, it is far safer than having students and staff members working in person in school buildings that are not designed for safety in a pandemic. Given the current status of the infection rate in Central Ohio, it is dangerous for us to open in-person classrooms and is likely to harm the community/county even more. If our county/state/nation is going to improve our situation in this pandemic, then we ALL have to be staying apart. Please consider staying with 100% Online School for at least Quarter 1 or Semester 1. Individuals and families with special needs can be dealt with individually as needed. Thank you for taking our comments.

- Amy Birtcher

Will the online option be considered for a half year option? If there is enough online interest, can we have teachers from our home school teach the children? Will the curriculum line up to prepare kids to return to a physical classroom once it is safe? Will there be teacher guidance for the virtual option or will it be self led?

- Kristin Kelley

What is the rationale behind kids being off 9 days in a row between their in person instruction weeks? Also, has there been consideration for IEP kids that are in resource rooms that already have a low student count in the spaces?

- Audrey Gonzalez

Would the district consider changing the rotation option so that all remote occurs when counties are actively rising during a level 3. Hospitalizations lag so much that going remote at level 4 would be too late to prevent an outbreak. Why have we not considered level 3&4 remote, level 2 hybrid and level 1 full in school? What will happen if a teacher or classmate tests positive - when will a class or school move to remote learning? Does the district have subs dedicated to school buildings or will they bring exposure from other buildings to our school? What activities will be allowed in elementary schools (specials, what

will recess look like?) Will mask exemptions be allowed, potentially exposing compliant students? If a student cannot attend in person due to a cough or congestion not caused by covid (ex: seasonal allergies), how will that student learn during their absence? Will the week of remote learning be student led or will there be interaction with a teacher during that week? What is the plan to address learning loss during an entire week away from the classroom?

- KRISTIN kelley

Dear members of the Westerville Board of Education,

I write to you as a very concerned parent of a WCS D 3rd grader, and the spouse of a WCS D teacher.

First, I wanted you all to know that I truly understand the difficulty of the predicament you're in. When it comes to finding a solution for an in-person return to school schedule when it's safe to do so, there's no real great solution. There's just degrees of less than optimal solutions. I get that. So thank you so much for all the time and effort you've put into trying to find a safe and workable solution.

All of that stated, I just wanted to lend my voice in opposition to the solution that was presented on Friday. First, I think the coronavirus situation in central Ohio has greatly deteriorated since we parents were given the survey to answer. I think if you were to survey us all now, you'd find that many of us believe we should start the school year with strictly online learning. There is simply way too much infection in our area to safely return students to the classroom, even in a 50% model. I've read that the Columbus board of health is recommending the same. As much as we all want our children back in the classroom, at this time I am personally petrified of it.

The board could tell me that there's an online option for those parents who don't want their children to return, but in reading the attachments that came with the announcement, it appears we must make a full year commitment? This is an enormous deterrent to parents like me who would like to preserve flexibility for two possible future outcomes...1. My child could do extremely poorly with it. 2. The coronavirus situation could improve down the road. Since my first preference would always be for my child to be in the classroom, this puts my wife and I in an impossible predicament. Choose between having our child go back to the classroom when we strongly believe it is currently unsafe, or having our child be taught online and risk him doing poorly and see conditions improve. This is not workable for us. With regards to the announced hybrid schedule, I feel like the worst possible solution was picked. You chose the equivalent of a Spring Break every other week. Every parent and teacher will say the same thing...when the student returns from such a long break they are completely disengaged. Putting aside the fact that this schedule, complete with shortened days, is a logistical nightmare to propose to our employers, it is a nightmare for students, too. I believe that is an imperative for each student to have a personal touch with their teacher every week. That's why every single district has basically a 2 day on 2 day off solution. No, it's not optimal. However, none of these schedules are, none of this is. At the very least, the 2 day on 2 day off schedule is more capable of keeping students engaged. I cannot fathom how the current schedule could possibly have been selected by anyone who consulted with educators.

All of that said, I'd like to make the following requests and pray that you consider them. 1. Please consider starting the year online. It is simply not safe right now. 2. Please allow parents flexibility to drop out of the online program after the first quarter if it doesn't work for their children, and please save them a spot at their currently enrolled school. For instance, I don't want my son to lose his spot at Hanby. 3. Please consider changing to the 2 on 2 off model that the majority of districts have chosen. Our children need week to week interaction with their teachers.

Thank you so much for your time. Please know that I truly do appreciate your good intentions even if I don't agree with the solutions presented.

Sincerely,

Jamie Rollo

- Jamie Rollo

For students that choose the virtual learning option, how will their reading/math levels be established for programs like Lexia and Dreambox?

- Rob Cunningham

Thank you for offering the opportunity for our children to attend the coming school year through the Virtual Academy. We appreciate the Westerville City School District Board of Education listening to our survey feedback, and that of other families, that at-home learning can be safe and beneficial. We look forward to hearing details on how the Academy will operate.

- Drew Cook

Are we really getting an additional 40 minutes so teachers have that time to plan? Shortening the day and decreasing specials along with questions of duty aide coverage makes it hard to believe.

Will specials still be 40 minutes and will there still be duty aides to cover lunch and recess? If not, teachers are losing that planning time

Students start arriving before 8:50 and are allowed in at 8:50 for breakfast that is supervised by non classroom teachers and the students have to be finished by 9:05. If the day isn't starting until 9:35 to give teachers 30 minutes of planning, when will students be allowed in the building? They have to eat breakfast in the classroom with the classroom teacher supervising so are we losing 10-20 minutes of instructional time or do we really just not have that planning time?

Dismissal at 3:20. You say we have 10 minutes of planning since they're being dismissed early. Who is watching the kids during dismissal? Buses, vans and parents are always late. Our office and principal won't watch the kids unless it's after 3:40. That's 10 minutes that teachers are with the students waiting, but that's now planning time so we will not wait with the students. Grade level teachers are assigned bus lines in our building and students wait in classrooms for their bus to arrive in my sister's building. Neither of those are options now because kids need to be out of the room at 3:20 and are not staff's responsibility.

I teach a unit and never have planning time. It's a good day if I get 20 minutes for lunch. I don't complain because it's what's best for my kids and I cover duties for people who don't bother getting them covered. Are non classroom teachers that need to plan as much as classroom teachers just going to be expected to cover all those duties and not be allowed to have planning time? The majority of my kids are with me far more than they are in their gen ed rooms and I have IEPs to write. I should have the same planning time. I usually do IEPs after school and on the weekends. I will not be doing that this year. If it's clear that my time isn't valued by the district, I won't be putting in the hours extra I usually do. This feeling is shared by many teachers across the district. You are taking away planning time while expecting us to do far more than usual and change so much of what we do. Teachers are not going to be as willing to go above and beyond when it's made clear that we are not valued by our school board.

What is the plan for special education students, especially those that are in units? Other districts stated what would be happening with special ed students in their initial plan. "Support will be provided"

doesn't tell anyone anything. These are some of the most vocal parents. My aides have no idea if they even have jobs because we know nothing about the plan for special ed. Our students are the most vulnerable in regards to catching and spreading this virus, but online learning was an even bigger challenge for them and we couldn't meet all their needs. Personally, I'd rather work to improve how we can teach them online because I can think of individual students that will not make it if they catch this virus, but parents don't want to lose services for their child. A plan for this population needs to be made immediately that addresses these concerns.

If for some reason you chose not to bring back all of our aides until school is 100% in person (mine did a lot work with the kids and for me during the last quarter of the year and we will still need them even with just 50% of our students at a time because of their individual needs), you will lose them. They will get other jobs and we will be lucky to be able to hire half of the needed aides whenever school is fully opened and maybe a few new hires will be almost as good as the ones you lost. Without aides, special ed unit teachers lose any chance of planning during our contract day and we won't be able to even have a lunch.

- Susan Ward

1) Regarding the 'WCSD virtual learning academy' We have been unable to find additional details. Is this going to be a teacher led classroom (specifically first and second grade) or is this a complete home schooling curriculum that the parents are expected to lead? If parent lead, will there be any teachers employed by the district to assist?

2) For the week A, week B restart plan, will there be teacher assistance during the virtual week (ex: google meet, etc.)?

3) Will the children have mask breaks during the day? We realize wearing a mask is crucial, and also realize wearing a mask for even short periods can make it difficult to breath. How will this be handled for long periods, and especially after periods of physical exertion like recess, or gym class? Especially since we will still be in very warm weather when school begins.

- Shane Sockrider

Will the A and B students be doing the same work each week or will there be different lesson plans for the in person and virtual groups? Also what access to assistance with lessons will the virtual group have while teachers are teaching in person?

- Jenny Johnson

Members of the Board of Education,

Full disclosure: I am a teacher at North, but I also have two children who are WCS students. I have many concerns about the proposed reopening plan, but will focus on only three in my comments. The concerns are the same across my dual teacher/parent role.

When the district first sent out surveys about reopening, COVID-19 cases across the state and county had been holding steady for weeks. I felt we would be able to safely open in a "blended" model in the Fall.

With COVID infections spiking now, especially here in Central Ohio, I no longer feel this is the case. A simple statistical analysis done by researchers at Georgia Tech (<https://covid19risk.biosci.gatech.edu>) shows that in a gathering of 50 people in Franklin County, there is a 76% chance of there being at least one individual present who is infected with COVID-19. In a gathering of 100 people, there is a 93% chance. It only goes up from there. We are looking at bringing together groups this big, and much larger, at the different school buildings day after day after day. Despite any precautions taken, someone with the

coronavirus WILL slip through the “self-check” procedures, they WILL infect others around them, and we WILL have a severe problem in our district.

As a teacher, I worry about my students getting sick and bringing the virus home to their families. As a parent, I worry about becoming infected at work and bringing the virus home to my family or my children doing the same.

My other two concerns center on the educational impact of the proposed blended model. The “A Week/B Week” schedule will make it very difficult to teach and to learn. Nine days (including weekends) without seeing students is too long! Without more consistent in-person contact with me, I worry that my students will take their “remote week” off. It will be near impossible to pick up where I need to the next time I see them – I fear I’ll spend the first couple days back re-teaching the material that should have been reinforced during the remote lessons. With the “M-Tu/Th-F” model preferred by most teachers, I would at least see each student within five days – still not ideal, but much better.

As a parent, I worry that my children won’t progress during their remote week as much as they could. They will have ample parental support at home (which I would say most of my students won’t have), so they won’t be taking time “off”, but I worry about them having nine days without in-person support from a Professional with experience teaching elementary school aged children (I teach high school – very different!)

I’m told many parents are worried about finding childcare for the “M-Tu/Th-F” model. I can’t see how it would be more difficult to find childcare for “Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday – every week” than to find childcare “every-other week”.

My last concern is regarding the deficient amount of planning time being given to teachers under this proposal. In 35 extra minutes (not 40, as my planning period would be 5 minutes shorter due to the shorter class periods), I could either begin to respond to that day’s remote learners OR begin planning for a remote lesson (either activity would take more time to complete). I could NOT do BOTH activities well. If I were provided a full day to plan (Wednesday, under the other model), I could devote that day to planning a full week of remote lessons. I could then focus on responding to remote students each day. My concern as a parent is the same – if my children’s teachers don’t have sufficient planning time, they won’t be able to plan solid, engaging remote lessons, despite all their efforts to do so. My children’s learning will suffer because of it.

In an email to one of my fellow teachers, Dr. Kellogg expressed his concern that having Wednesdays off would mean “20% fewer hours” for students. I assume he wasn’t referring to “hours” that the State counts for in-school learning, as no one in the State will be meeting this requirement. If he was referring to “hours learning”, he failed to take in to account that the 40 minutes by which the school day is shortened would be difficult to makeup in online activities (5 minutes per class at the high schools). If every Wednesday were designated as “remote learning”, teachers could provide the full amount of learning time – no time would be missed.

Thank you.

- David Johnston

I support the face mask requirement for kids and staff. I’m a little uneasy about week on in person but understand the needs/reasoning. If things get worse, I hope school will consider all remote. Of the hybrid models, our preferred was 2 days on 2 days remote. Anyway, thank you for taking a cautious approach with our kids health.

- Cotton Randall

Can we please have an update about chromebooks for next year?

- Victoria Cook

The schools reopening plan needs to include an option for students to be virtual that does not require them to do so for the full year. Too few details have been provided about the learning experience our children will have in this split schedule. I find it very difficult to believe that one teacher can teach both sessions simultaneously. More information about curriculum is required to be shared. Our kids can not afford months of lost learning. We as parents are prepared to help, to do whatever it takes but we need more information and more options.

- Robin Garrison

SECTION 2: Comments Received after 12 p.m. and during the 7/20/20 Board of Education meeting

Hoping to get clarification on what the response will be if a student or staff refuses to wear a mask. Thanks!

- Jen Toth

Has the District considered the feasibility of allowing our staff to deliver their courses via remote tools to the entire District? Could students without necessary technology access or with other special circumstances be placed physically in classrooms with teachers who are delivering other courses? Example: Teachers deliver their courses remotely from a physical classroom to all of their students. Students with technology access challenges or with other special circumstances could then be bussed from their neighborhoods to any District building and seated in classrooms where the teachers are delivering courses. Students (whether at home or in a school building) follow the same schedule as they would normally, but move from virtual classroom to virtual classroom. Students in a classroom would not move physically around the building to change classes.

- Thomas Lynch

Columbus City Schools announced over the weekend that they are now reconsidering opening in person due to the rise in cases. Is this Board considering a fully remote option until new cases start to decrease for an extended period of time?

- Thomas Lynch

In reference to the Westerville Virtual Academy, will there be dedicated teachers for each grade/class? How will they be set up, i.e. block times for working with students each day, like it was this past Spring? Will they all be utilizing the same platform for each grade/class.

- Gwendolyn Wright

What will the distance learning portion of A/B approach look like? How will the off-week curriculum be delivered? What technology solutions will the District use for students who are at home to be able to interact with teachers and peers in the classroom? Sending students home for a week with the equivalent of a "blizzard bag" is not a recipe for success.

- Mollie Lynch

In reference to the Westerville Virtual Academy, will there be dedicated teachers for each grade/class? How will they be set up, i.e. block times for working with students each day, like it was this past Spring? Will they all be utilizing the same platform for each grade/class

- Gwendolyn Wright

Does the 100% distance learning program offer the same curriculum? If not, how significant are the differences? Will AP classes be available?

- Mollie Lynch

Are students in the 100% distance program able to participate in athletics and co-curricular activities?

- Mollie Lynch

Mask policy - are students, staff, visitors expected to wear masks at all times inside school buildings? The policy outline mentioned common areas, classrooms, hallways but was vague on whether this really meant everywhere inside our buildings. What are the consequences for students who either do not comply with the mask mandate or do not properly wear masks when in the building?

- Mollie Lynch

Will the full course catalog that was originally planned for the 2020-21 school year still be offered or should we expect some changes/eliminations?

- Mollie Lynch

Will the change to the school start date push out the end of the year?

- Mollie Lynch

How are athletics and other co-curricular activities affected by the change in the daily schedule? How will students on the remote week participate in onsite activities?

- Mollie Lynch

How much teacher and staff attrition do you anticipate as a result of returning to the classroom?

- Mollie Lynch

How will shared assets, such as Chromebooks, desks, books, and lab equipment be cleaned between uses?

- Mollie Lynch

I understand that these are challenging times with a lot of unknowns and a lot of issues that need to be worked through. The shift in the spring to remote learning was definitely a challenge for everyone involved. I understand the desire to get back to some sort of normalcy. I know I do. We all want to move forward and put coronavirus behind us. However, we aren't at a place where we can do that yet. Companies sent employees home for remote work. I don't know of many that have called their employees back to work where adults can be easily "socially distance" in cubicles with masks. The governor is looking at adding mask recommendations to additional counties in the state. The cities of Columbus and Westerville already have stronger mask orders in place. This Board, and most other groups, are still meeting online. The Columbus Dispatch reported that Columbus City Schools is already wondering if they will be able to open under a blended model given the increase in coronavirus cases in Franklin County. I understand that the School Board has been working hard to find a solution that works in some capacity for everyone. Some families want to send their children back to school. Some families want to stay home longer. I disagree that the virtual option needs to be a year-long commitment. It is hard to predict the next week, let alone where things will be at the end of the year. My kids learn best in a

structured school environment. I would love to send them there as soon as we feel comfortable doing that, but we can't know when that will be. Other districts are doing shorter commitments so that if there are changes, people can opt back in to sending their kids to school. Another concern I have is for the teachers. Teachers are being forced to do a job that they didn't sign up for. They want to teach our children and help them grow through education. They did not sign up to have to choose between their health (including their family) and working. They didn't sign up to be part of a health experiment to see how quickly coronavirus can spread through a school. We all know that kids are going to get sick when they come into the school. It happens every year. We all expect it. The only problem this year is determining whether it is the common cold, a regular fever, some other common illness, or the more serious coronavirus? What is the plan for determining that? Will testing be done at school? Will it be up to families and staff to get their own testing? What are the options for the teachers? Have they been asked if they feel comfortable coming back into the classrooms? What about the other staff? We are heading into a big unknown. If numbers in Franklin and Delaware Counties weren't still going up, then I might feel differently. The situation changes by the week. If I would answer the parent survey today, I would answer it differently than I did when it was sent out. We don't know a lot about the coronavirus and what we are learning is changing back and forth. We especially don't know the long term affects. I don't want to see anyone in our district die of the coronavirus. I don't want to see anyone have long term affects from coronavirus. Why are we rushing? We may be ready mentally to get back to normal or we may need a place for our kids to be so we can work at jobs that can't be done at home, but coronavirus isn't done yet, and we don't know what it has yet to do to our society. We can't wish it away. We can't decide that it doesn't matter or won't affect us. It is a virus. It does what it wants, and until we have a true way of affecting where it can go, why are we rushing to put **TEACHER'S, STAFF AND CHILDREN'S LIVES AT RISK** to return to an environment that won't resemble any kind of "normal."

- Andrea Jones

Will students be separated by grade so that they'll be able to see their peers for in person classes? For example, 9th and 10th grades are in A week and 11th and 12th are in B Week.

- Michelle

In reference to the Westerville Virtual Academy: Just like a regular school year, a teacher would have i.e. 6 periods throughout the day. Has any consideration been given to allowing the teachers to teach those 6 periods via Zoom or whatever format used each day? The students would have to log into their classes during the required times. Example: if students have math 1st period, they would log into their class for that total block of time with the teacher. Then after that period is over, the students would log into the classroom for their 2nd period class and so forth.

- Gwendolyn Wright

I feel as though the hybrid option offering 2 days on, 3 days off, etc is a much better choice than 1 week on, 1 week off for several reasons. One, if we are so concerned with contact tracing then why would the school district be ok with having each group of kids be off for a total of 9 days and free to then be exposed to possibly hundreds of other people and then bring all of that back to their class the next week? A lot of parents will have to find alternative care during the off week which means public daycares, in home daycares, friend's and family's houses, I know a few families taking vacations on their off week....if a child only has 1 day off in between, the likelihood of them being able to stay in their home with their own family is much higher. Also, how many parents will not be able to teach their kids during their off week adequately? For several reasons....they don't speak english so they cannot understand or teach their children, they don't have adequate resources, the parents work and will just not be able to put in the time and effort needed, or the parents that have all the time and resources, but the child does not listen to their parent and it becomes a fight. When these children go back into class 9 days later, those teachers are going to be spinning in their wheels trying to get all the kids back up to speed as to where

they had left off. If we do the 2/3 day option, children are much more likely to do a few worksheets at home and come back with the knowledge they had learned, ready to continue through the lessons. I know the district has to cover their butts, but we cannot let our children be pushed aside for the politics of this situation.

- Beth Branham

I am not in agreement with the current parental choice of "Blended instruction" OR 1 year commitment to the Virtual Academy.

We are obviously in uncertain times. We needed leadership and direction from the Federal government and did not get it. We needed leadership and direction from the State government and did not get it. This thrust every school district in the country to make decisions based on the same uncertainty. As individual parents, we do not have access to enough data to make a reasoned decision regarding in-person schooling or not. By choosing the Blended option, we risk exposure to COVID19, without any choice in mitigation techniques. By requiring a year commitment to the Virtual Academy, we risk the interpersonal development and engagement that may be possible in the second Semester, depending on the State's handling of the virus.

This is an untenable and unreasonable choice to force parents to make.

- Todd Paciorek

Would the district consider changing the rotation option so that all remote occurs when counties are actively rising during a level 3. Hospitalizations lag so much that going remote at level 4 would be too late to prevent an outbreak. Why have we not considered level 3&4 remote, level 2 hybrid and level 1 full in school? What will happen if a teacher or classmate tests positive - when will a class or school move to remote learning? Does the district have subs dedicated to school buildings or will they bring exposure from other buildings to our school? What activities will be allowed in elementary schools (specials, what will recess look like?) Will mask exemptions be allowed, potentially exposing compliant students? If a student cannot attend in person due to a cough or congestion not caused by covid (ex: seasonal allergies), how will that student learn during their absence? Will the week of remote learning be student led or will there be interaction with a teacher during that week? What is the plan to address learning loss during an entire week away from the classroom?

- KRISTIN kelley

1. Will siblings be on the same week?
2. Will grades 2 and lower be required to wear masks at desk? Other school districts are only requiring when in transit.
3. When will we know our child's schedule as to make arrangements for help at home when they are on their virtual weeks.
4. What does virtual learning mean? Is it a view of a live class room or is it home schooling by parents?
5. Are we still required to pay the full \$300 a month for all day kindergarten?"

- Rick Grasseschi

I would like to request consideration to change virtual learning from a whole year commitment to a semester-long commitment. Thank you.

- Lisa Bare

Why is the "Westerville Virtual Academy" enrollment a year long commitment? I want my children to attend brick and mortar school when SAFE. Current COVID-19 data shows returning to the buildings on August 19 risks the lives of students and staff. I am not comfortable sending my children to a building for the start of the year, however I want to when the data proves it to be safe. If that is before the end of the school year I feel families should have the option to return to their enrolled building. These are

unprecedented challenges we face as working parents and I ask the WCSD BOE to provide flexible options based on scientific data in providing the best learning environments for Westerville students. In consideration of our community safety please approve a 100% online start with flexible options when it is safe to return to the buildings.

- Tera Stockdale

What is the plan for notifying ESL families in regards to the Delivery of Instruction choices? (Beyond the 3 languages we use for translation and recorded phone calls.) We have many other languages spoken in the district and the parents may not understand their mail/emails that will be coming. What will the turnaround time be between notification by the district and a family decision deadline?

- Tina Shirey

Please do not make families commit to an entire year of virtual education if they are choosing that option. Most school systems are only asking families to commit to a trimester at a time. A full year is a long commitment and things might change a lot by the end of the year. I have three children in three different grades. One has terrible asthma triggered by upper respiratory illnesses, so we have to choose the virtual option, but if we can get them back into school this year we absolutely want to do that. Thank you for your hard work!

- Kate Baldwin

If students are sent to do the rotating weeks in school to start the year, will there be an option to pull students to 100% virtual if the parent feels like the environment is becoming unsafe?

- Jennifer H

We would like to consider remote learning for our 3 children in the district. However, we have serious reservations in having to commit to an entire year of online learning. Would the district consider a reevaluation/point of re-entry back into a classroom setting such as at the end of quarter grading periods or beginning of the semester? We would like to remain self contained in our home setting until COVID-19 case numbers either stabilize or diminish and would, at that point, feel safe for our children to attend school in person. We are concerned that at some point the pandemic will be controlled and we are stuck administering education at home to our children that doesn't reflect the current situation. An all or nothing approach hurts the district as well as Westerville families.

- Jennifer Multra

Can the Virtual learning option be opened for the first qtr and then based on pandemic circumstances we can decide if to continue virtual or send the kids to school

- Ambica Rupp

What is the rationale behind kids being off 9 days in a row between their in person instruction weeks? Also, has there been consideration for IEP kids that are in resource rooms that already have a low student count in the spaces?

- Audrey Gonzalez

If parents send their child to school and that child refuses to keep their mask on as it is intended, how will this be handled? It seems unsafe for others if it is just a continued correction to put it on.

- Katie Strete

With the new proposed plan, what will be the effect for having to pay for all day kindergarten? Now that parents will have to find child care for every other week and pay the all day kindergarten fee as well, will there be a reduced cost? Thank you for your consideration.

- Lauren Tiemeier

Can you give more detail how 100% virtual learning will work?

- Michelle

I am concerned about our start date. I do not feel that it is giving us enough time to plan appropriately. We need time to plan for what the hybrid model will look like, we also need time to learn and prepare for protocols for cleaning/sick children, and really we also need time to plan for distance learning. If Columbus becomes a level 4 and we have to shut down schools it would be great if we already had a plan and parents and students were prepared for that. It would also be beneficial to parents if we had some kind of orientation before school started so that parents know what to expect for when their child is at school and also when their child is at home. I had numerous families that had a very difficult time helping their child and wished they had an orientation to show them chromebooks and the other online programs. Couldn't we start the first of September? This would give us ample time to be prepared for our students so that everyone is on the same page.

- Deb Henney

What is the step by step process for parents to enroll current Westerville students into the Online Academy for the 2020-2021 school year? I called the enrollment office today and was transferred to my the specific elementary my children attend. Unfortunately, no one knew what the steps were to do so!

- Toni Engelman

My question: how can WCS promote equity and avoid exacerbating the many inequalities revealed by the pandemic? How will under-resourced students get the resources they need during this time? How can we think about "our kids" rather than each family thinking about "my kids"?

- Margaret Koehler

Firstly, I want to extend a sincere 'thank you' to everyone involved in the decision making process to help keep our children and community safe. I've heard and read several negative comments about the A week/B week spilt schedule, and I just wanted to say that my family and I are VERY happy that WCS is going this route, as it seems like the most logical option.

The idea of 2 days in-person, 3 days remote (or possibly alternating 1 additional in-person day) did not make sense to me at all. Besides the logistical problems of schedules for working parents, it seems like this version would be the most difficult for teachers and staff to manage, since they'd get exposed to even more germs by having double the amount of kids in school each week. The 5 days on/5 days off option allows parents to plan work schedules and allows schools a way to do contact tracing should anyone test positive for COVID.

I would like to have some clarity re: the online weeks: whether or not will there be teachers who are dedicated in-person instruction and teachers who are dedicated to online instruction, or if each teacher is responsible for both online and in-person instruction, which seems like it would be challenging for them to manage and allow for enough communication with students who aren't in class.

- Sara Krauss

Other districts that are also rolling out a hybrid learning plan are offering full time in classroom education for students with disabilities that need extensive support to access the curriculum. Will this be an option in Westerville? If yes, how do parents make such a request and how will such determination be made?

- Charity Grooms

With the two options available to parents 1) Alternate week in school or 2) One year commitment to online school, the board is partially looking over the feedback provided by parents to the survey. Parents

wanted an alternate day plan and some flexibility to Online commitment. With some other schools districts offering semester wise online learning and given the unpredictability of the Covid-19 pandemic, Does WCSD plan to modify Online commitment to quarterly or for the semester only?

- Deepak Shukla

What is the liability for if/when a student or teacher dies from being in the building.

- Cassie Mumm

I've read a lot of negative comments regarding the blended learning plan that we are offered using 1 week in school and 1 week online. Initially I was for the 2 days in school and 3 days off alternating weeks. The more I've thought about it, I really like the alternating weeks option from a health perspective because we will have adequate time to assess our kids for COVID symptoms during their week off. Also the current recommended quarantine time is 10 days from the start of symptoms, so the week at home would cover a large amount of the quarantine period if they were diagnosed with Covid. It seems that if the A days and B days are based on last name, it would make it easier to quarantine the whole household as well. It would be more difficult if we had some kids in our house on A day and some kids on B day, if the whole house had to quarantine.

- Kimberly Hicks

What are the details of the Westerville Virtual Academy? Who will be the teachers, what classes will be offered, how will it be structured, how will IEP services be met? Why a full year commitment? Most districts are doing a semester commitment.

- Lesley George

Might WCS consider a remote learning option for one semester commitment instead of a full year commitment?

- Cortnee Phifer

My family asks that you consider pushing the start date of school back farther than August 19th. This will allow teachers more time to prepare for this unprecedented school year. Importantly, it will also allow parents more time to prepare their children for the challenges they will face in this new school environment. Please especially consider differently-abled children who need more time to process change.

- Amanda

I was wondering what the reasoning was for choosing an alternating week schedule. A fixed two or three days every week is easier on children and families in terms of establishing routine-especially important in this time of turmoil-and in finding childcare. Alternating weeks just sounds like it will be a nightmare for scheduling and routines.

- Catherine Papai

I am certain the creation of the current plan was challenging and took many hours of deliberation and effort from numerous individuals. Thank you for working so diligently. I sincerely appreciate the measures put in place to protect students, families and staff while providing a quality educational experience.

I do have a concern however. I notice that students who choose to participate in the Westerville Virtual Academy will not have any access to food service, meaning no breakfast or lunch available to them through the district. While this may not be an issue for all, I fear that students whose family circumstances would qualify them for free or reduced lunch, have an unimaginably difficult decision to make. They either: attend in person through the A week - B week format, risking exposure to Covid-19

for themselves and their families and have meals available to them each school day; or they attend WVA, protecting themselves and their families from increased exposure to the virus, but having to go without the food they would normally have had access to at school.

Essentially, the choice for some students is avoid exposure to Covid-19 or be hungry. That feels unfair to me.

Is there any other option available to ensure that those students who need access to the meals provided through the school also have the ability to attend the Westerville Virtual Academy?

By extension, there is a chance that schools with larger economically disadvantaged populations will see a greater number of students actually in their building come the end of August. Has there been, and will there be, any discussion regarding moving students or staff, from one building to another to ensure all student needs are being met in an equitable and an as-safe-as-possible manner?

Again, I appreciate the time and effort of all of those involved in planning for what back to school looks like during a global pandemic and I look forward to hearing responses to these questions.

Thank you.

- Kevin Kissling

Might WCS consider a remote learning option for one semester commitment instead of a full year commitment?

- Cortnee Phifer

I'm not sure the information from parent and staff surveys taken in May remains relevant. Perspectives and thoughts have changed based on what we have learned about the virus and our percent of positive cases in Ohio has increased at an alarming rate compared to May. There is a need to go back to the community and staff to gain insights on the best and safest ways to proceed.

School schedules in other countries have evolved as new information is learned. Currently, some schools are holding classes in a couple hour increments daily with small, socially distant, and masked groups. This avoids the problem of students having to take off masks to eat and also avoids students needing a "mask break" since they are only there a couple hours. Could we please consider this when we do go back? It could make parents and staff feel more confident and safe.

- Laura

Can we please have an update about chromebooks for next year?

- Victoria Cook

Students need interaction with their teachers when learning at home. Can classes be run with students at home on google meets during classroom time sessions. Engaging both classroom and home learning at the same time. Most students are too young for the asynchronous learning that took place in the spring. Most Parents do not have the time to do their jobs and teach students from home.

- Tricia Carlos

Would it be possible to livestream class time (even if for short periods of time like specific instruction time) each week, so that those on the virtual week would still be able to receive direct instruction from the teacher while at home.

- Tara Fuhrhop

Geez, what a tough decision. Thanks for all your hard work on it. I would love the ability to consider online school for a semester, not just an entire year. Is this monetary? Is online FT being outsourced? Is that related to why a year commitment is required? Thanks!

- Matt Glaviano

Conditions may drastically change by December that would make in-person classes a safe option. Why does the plan require a commitment to a full year of online learning if one chooses that option, instead of requiring a commitment to one quarter or semester? It seems like a punishment for those who are concerned about the safety of in person classes. Additionally, a later start date, perhaps after Labor Day, would afford more time for teachers and staff to prepare for the school year since most were off duty during the summer; an opportunity for Ohio to stem the rise in Covid cases making it safer to return to in person classes; and greater time for parents to make a more informed decision for online or in person classes based on their families' needs.

- Dr. Tiyi Morris

Where was this report at the 7.6.2020 School Board Meeting? Why has it taken this long to hear this plan this evening? It surely was not pulled together in the past two weeks.

- Chris Palma

I cannot fit more than 9 desks in my classroom 6 feet apart. How will this be considered?

- Kayla Ballmer

Will the district consider outdoor education where school premises allow? (I, as well as many others, would be happy to paint social distance circles on the black top to accommodate such an approach.) Will teachers be told to/encouraged to teach with windows open to improve air flow? There are studies that indicate that air conditioning can contribute to spreading coronavirus; for schools that have air conditioning, will the units be turned off? If air conditioning units will be on, will students be able to each outside (weather permitting) where it would be safer, given air flow issues while students are not wearing masks?

If, during the school year, a student who is enrolled in the blended model has a change in their family's risk level (i.e. non-covid health diagnosis/asthma, etc.), will they have the option to enroll in the virtual academy (or participate in their blended model as a 100% virtual student)?

What disciplinary guidance will be shared with teachers and students around lack of use/misuse of masks? What disciplinary action will be taken?

When substitute teachers are needed, how will the online portion of blended learning function? (Will they be given access to the ""homeroom"" teacher's Google Docs/Google Hangouts and ""take over"" virtually, or will families need to be ""on guard"" on email each day to find out if there is a change in instruction on any given day?")

- Meredith Fossil

I've had multiple experience with my kids in WCS elementary classes being combined with other classes based on unexpected absence, lack of an available substitute, etc. Obviously that couldn't happen under any partial model. What's your plan in that situation?

- Matt Glaviano

I am highly concerned about how the cleaning process will go. There are very specific saturation times that are required for the cleaning products to actually work and do the proper disinfecting they are supposed to. These saturation times are often that the surface must remain visibly wet for several minutes at a time.... not wipes once and then assumed to be disinfected. I hope that those instructions will be specifically followed, as when they are not, then there is no point in using the product. My bigger concern is that the areas that are cleaned, sanitized, disinfected are then laden with highly toxic residue and whatever dead bacteria, viruses, and whatever other surface contaminants were there when the chemical cleaner was applied. It is necessary that these surfaces are then wiped with potable water so that these residues are not then absorbed into the skin of anyone who touches that surface. I also and highly concerned that my child... actually any child... will not be asked to take a highly toxic disinfectant wipe to

wipe down their own desk. Not only what touches their skin, but the fumes they inhale are also highly toxic. Can we be assured that efforts will be taken to reduce the toxic burden that will be assumed by our children because they are being exposed to highly toxic chemicals that are not properly being removed from surfaces they will be in contact with. This is not only an issue for kids with chronic respiratory issues, but also healthy kids. Even an over use of hand sanitizer is not healthy for kids. When available, they should always be directed to soap and water over hand sanitizer, and a kid should always have the option to go for soap and water than being forced to use hand sanitizer. I am all for clean and healthy spaces and hands, but there needs to be the recognition that industrial cleaners that are being recommended are not healthy for anyone, are often not used according to directions, and will present future problems when not treated as the toxic chemicals that they are.

- Tara Fuhrhop

Will a child who simply sneezes a normal, non sick related sneeze be immediately identified as a possible case of covid, removed from the class room, and then sent home? How will you decide whether a child is simply being a normal human with an involuntary response to an external stimulus be identified as sick immediately? Will every child sent home as considered sick be required to get a COVID test every single time?

- Tara Fuhrhop

First, I appreciate the reliance on health guidelines and science to help make decisions. As difficult as trying to negotiate childcare for the virtual week (or completely virtual option) will be, I appreciate that students will be home for 9 days at a time. This seems to be a decision backed by data that indicates symptoms seem to develop within 2-6 days for most people.

That being said, it would be helpful to know more what the virtual week in the blended model will look like for kindergartners in particular. Will students have one in-person teacher and one virtual teacher? If not, it seems like it would double the workload of the in-person teacher and have significantly lower engagement and teacher presence in the virtual week.

In addition, will all-day kindergarten still be running?

Next, Columbus City Schools has indicated that they may decide to open fully remote given the numbers. Even though we are “only” in a level 3, the numbers are significantly worse than they were in March.

Finally, it was mentioned that particular classes may pivot structures. Does this mean that it would be a possibility that one class goes remote but the class next door still accepts students? The workings of contract tracing are a little unclear.

Thank you for prioritizing the health of students AND staff since the staff will be exposed to both Groups A and B.

- Dr. Jennifer McCullough

I would like to request consideration to change virtual learning from a whole year commitment to a semester-long commitment. Thank you.

- Lisa Bare

Will there be plastic shields (large ones, like for clerks in stores) for staff who will be seeing larger numbers of students (eg. the library, cafeteria, office)?

- Judith Gawelek

Will there be an opportunity to find out if specific students (not sibling sets) who are potentially going to be working together in a microschool environment on virtual weeks could be granted the same a/b week schedule? Also would you be considering putting entire neighborhoods on the same a/b weeks schedules

so that it would keep the exposure level down as neighborhoods would combine on the busses if it was not assigned by neighborhood?

- Tara Fuhrhop

Question: Will the instructional aspect of iReady be available to middle school teachers as it is available to elementary teachers?

- Jen Hubble

Someone during the meeting tonight mentioned that there is a lot of discussion going on now about students with IEP's and 504's but there is nothing to report as of yet. If that is not yet decided, how can teachers and students be prepared to begin school by Aug 19th?

- Amanda

As I listened to the first 1hr and 45 minutes of the board meeting. Everyone continues to say that we will "come back to that" or "we are continuing to work on this" or "we don't know at this time," why are we trying to start our teachers on time and our students only a week later? It seems as though we are rushing this without having everything in place and will expect teachers to have it together on time and continue to pick up the pieces. Please consider pushing the student start date back so that we have more policies in place are prepared as much as possible for what the fall will bring. Thank you.

- Angie Crego

Are there any plans to have all staff tested for Covid-19 before we return to school in August?

- Judy Gawelek

If a family who has children in a magnet program, but chooses to homeschool their children (not through the Westerville Virtual Academy), will they lose their magnet school spot at Westerville for the following year?

- Tara

If the teachers that are on the current roster are going to teach the virtual, is there any possibility of hiring specifically for the academy. Also,, Calvert is an established for profit school are we just using their tools??

- Melody Petry-Johnson

I am on the board meeting now and I have heard very little about the elementary courses, options, hiring and it is very disappointing that the elementary reps are not speaking up. I need more information. Calvert, how does that work?

- Melody Petry-Johnson

Will the elementary WVA with Calvert Learning include the printed material option or will it strictly be the digital option. I, and I'm sure many more parents would feel more confident in this choice if the printed materials were included.

- Margaret Butler

PLEASE push back the start date. I am not asking for additional paid days. We have all been working all summer, without pay. We need more time to prepare even if it's not an official "contract day." Please, please reconsider.

- Beth Morvay

Why are we the only district that is in such a rush to get started?

- Jimmy Gaul

How well does the new calvert virtual learning program mesh with existing software like lexia and dreambox?

- Rob Cunningham

I'm sorry but it is absurd that not only are we behind almost every other school when it comes to a plan but you are actually proposing starting earlier than you told us in your email. The 19th isn't even that great! We need more time to get more development and training. Most other districts aren't starting until the last week of August. You need to support your staff!

- Meaghan Bedigian

What if you lengthened the school day by one hour? I don't know the math, but that would help parents who are working, would allow you to start later which would give teachers and families more time to make arrangements and still get instructional hours in, while finishing the school year on time.

- Michelle

Who is planning for these virtual start dates? If it is elementary teachers, then you are not helping provide them with any extra time. The schools will spend hours creating these videos.

- Vicki

The importance of two way communication and input from staff and parents keeps being brought up by Dr. Kellogg. However, the survey data shows how teacher input is not truly being valued and taken into consideration. This is so disappointing.

- Kylie O'Ryan

Can the Virtual learning option be opened for the first qtr and then based on pandemic circumstances we can decide if to continue virtual or send the kids to school

- Ambica Rupp

Wow! Great job! Thanks to President Rev. Vilardo and Board members, and Superintendent Dr. Kellogg. Fantastic job on today's decision on moving forward. WCS have the best team! Very thoughtful discussion and final decision.

- CLYDE PIATT

How do you assure parents safety of our kids if other parents allow their kids to come to school if the kids are not feeling well or having symptoms of the virus?

Will there be door temperature check screening at the door to assure kids safety?

- Mohamed Yusuf

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- Mohamed Yusuf

I would like to clarify if faceshields and/or gaitors are acceptable for students, specifically those under Grade 3 or if it required to be a face mask.

I would also like to better understand what appears to be a limitation in receiving meal services if the WVA is selected. Will there be another option available to the families requiring these services so they are not required to choose a blended option for food security.

- Sarah Jamgochian Evener

How do you seriously expect full time working parents to be able to handle the Week A/Week B schedule? Also, the alternating weeks is a very inconsistent schedule for children. Why can't it be changed to a 2-3 days in school and then 2-3 days online each week? That is what other districts are doing. That would be a more consistent structure for everyone involved. I understand that things are not going back to normal, but the 2-3 days in/2-3 days online each week seems like a much better plan for children and working parents. It would be much more consistent for everyone. Also, I really hope that siblings will be on the same schedule.

- Bethany Wright

What will be done to curtail parents from saying their child has a medical exemption just because they don't want to wear a mask or because they don't want them to wear a mask. I fear a lot of abuse of this particular exemption. How stringent will it be?

- Erin Ayres

If we decide temporary homeschooling (just throughout COVID) is the best choice for our family at this time (as opposed to the Westerville Virtual Academy), would we be able to reclaim our student's spot at Emerson or Hanby when things return to "normal"?

- Kacy Walko

What are you doing to address the technology part of the blended learning/all online options? Will computer that work be provided?

- Jody Minter

Reopening schools is not safe. One teacher whose spouse works in a hospital as brings covid home.then teacher takes it to school unknowingly can be disastrous. As well as students whose parents work in the medical field or essential workers at a grocery store. Its too soon and too many unknown variables.

- Latea Johnson

If we are undecided how to start school and when to start, why are school activities such as band camp moving forward when Level 3 = limit activities as much as possible. ? Pre-camp started this week and band camp next week. Parents have to decide during a rise in Covid cases whether or not to let their kids start these practices, camps etc. If they do not go, the students are then excluded from participating for the year.

- Doreen

Post board meeting question: what is the level of teacher interface with children at the elementary level? I suggest regular group meetings or "classes" as a part of this option, as will be available for secondary students . I am concerned that children will not have a teacher relationship in this model. The Thanks!

- Tiffany Cooper

post board meeting question: Will the WVA continue as an educational option after the 20-21 school year?

- Tiffany Cooper

it is proven that germs can spread 30ft through an instrument would band be the safest for me?

- Maggie Palma

Will there be training for students on how to get most out of on-line learning, and tool/tips on how best to succeed in a virtual environment ? This is where the last semesters failed our students a little.

- Martin Haas