



School Division Responses:
School Reopening Community
Survey Initiated by the
Waynesboro School Board

COMMUNITY SURVEY: QUALIFYING STATEMENTS

- On August 11, 2020, the Waynesboro School Board decided that totally virtual instruction will be provided to students beginning August 31, 2020.
 - Throughout the school year, schools have been inviting more students back to in-person instruction.
 - Kindergarten students began attending school five days a week on October 19, 2020.
 - 1st-5th grade students will begin a hybrid model of instruction the week of November 9, 2020.
- The responses contained in this presentation are subject to change based on guidance from the Waynesboro School Board, the Virginia Department of Health, and/or the Virginia Department of Education. Additionally, community dynamics related to COVID-19 may impact these responses.



COMMUNITY SURVEY:

BUILDING/STUDENT RELATED Q & A- CLASSROOMS

- How many students allowed per classroom (elementary, middle school, high school differences)?
 - *Most of our classroom spaces will accommodate 10 to 12 students. Students and staff will be spaced 6-feet apart to maintain social distancing. These guidelines are in place at all levels.*
- How will lunches be handled (elementary, middle school, high school differences)?
 - *Students will make meal choices and the meals will be delivered to classrooms by School Nutrition staff. Students may eat lunch in the cafeteria if they are able to be socially distanced and surfaces sanitized after use. Also, families participating in totally remote instruction will have options to pick up meals at school.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY:

BUILDING/STUDENT RELATED Q & A- CLASSROOMS

- How often will classrooms be cleaned? Who will clean them (teachers, custodial)?
What will they be cleaned with (machine, Clorox wipes)?
 - *Classrooms will be cleaned daily by all school staff. Custodial staff will take the lead, but our staff will use disinfecting spray and non-toxic wipes to clean surfaces. Our teachers have a hydrogen peroxide based solution in their classroom to regularly clean surfaces.*
- Will there be plastic barriers around desks?
 - *No, these are not recommended by the Virginia Department of Health. Plastic barriers will be used for reception areas where short-term contact with a variety of people may happen. The plastic desk barriers are not effective for long-term use.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY:

BUILDING/STUDENT RELATED Q & A- CLASSROOMS

- How will desks fit in classrooms 6 ft apart while still enabling equity by all students being able to see what is being presented?
 - *Since only 10 to 12 students will be in each classroom, the desks will be spaced around the room so there is no obstructed view. As always, our instructional staff will move students who are not able to see.*
- Are there division wide instructional expectations or will it be at a teacher's discretion?
 - *While every teacher will set up their in-person and remote classroom differently, there are similar resources across all of our schools and expectations about the amount of time and materials that are used for instruction. Our instructional staff are partnering across buildings to share lessons, resources, and materials.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: BUILDING/STUDENT RELATED Q & A- CLASSROOMS

- Will the rooms be fogged daily?
 - *Common areas, such as entrances, clinics, and hallways will be sanitized daily with our electrostatic sprayer. Classrooms will be sanitized daily with spray disinfectant and the electrostatic sprayer will be used on a regular basis to provide an extra layer of protection in the classroom. When a COVID-19 case is suspected or confirmed, the electrostatic sprayer will be used.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: BUILDING/STUDENT RELATED Q & A- ELEMENTARY

- How will recess be managed? How will play areas be cleaned?
 - *Students participating in in-person instruction will have assigned recess times where one class will be allowed to use a playground structure. The structure will be sprayed with a disinfectant after use.*
- Are teachers expected to always try to maintain a 6-foot distance from students? This will be hard with younger children.
 - *There are many visual reminders for staff and students in our schools. Especially for young children, our staff is going to teach the students why social distancing is important and provide developmentally appropriate reminders.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: BUILDING/STUDENT RELATED Q & A- MIDDLE/HIGH

- Will students change for gym class?
 - *Yes, but social distancing must be maintained in the locker room. During physical activity, there will be a 10-foot separation between students.*
- Will there be afterschool activities?
 - *Yes, but they will only be conducted online. The school division will follow the guidance of the Virginia High School League for athletics.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: BUILDING/STUDENT RELATED Q & A- MIDDLE/HIGH

- If a student is attending Vo-Tech 4 days a week, can they take the bus?
 - *Yes, bus transportation will be provided to Valley Career and Technical Center for our students.*

- What will class changes look like? There is potential of having 100s in halls. How will this be handled?
 - *At this time, with most of the students attending totally remote instruction, there will be much smaller groups of students at school and transitions will be much easier to manage. As mentioned on a previous slide, there will be visual reminders on the floor to remind students and staff to maintain social distancing. Many of our schools have implemented one-way hallways and/or stairwells.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: VIRTUAL LEARNING Q & A

- Will classes be live and require attendance? How many hours per day will be required?
 - Yes, there will be a mixture of live instruction and posted instruction that can be accessed at any time. Students are expected to have “meaningful interactions” with the instructional content. More guidance is found at:
http://www.waynesboro.k12.va.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server_215122/File/COVID-19/WPS%202020-2021%20Attendance%20Guidelines.pdf



COMMUNITY SURVEY: VIRTUAL LEARNING Q & A

- How will attendance be counted for virtual instruction?
 - *Instructional staff will be able to use the features of Canvas, our learning management system, to determine the amount of time students interacted with posted content and participated in live instructional opportunities.*
- Who will monitor online participation? How will virtual students be held accountable?
 - *Teachers will monitor progress, provide support, and communicate with families and students if there are issues with students not completing their online assignment or engaging in the live instructional opportunities.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: VIRTUAL LEARNING Q & A

- Will a packet of work be provided for students who don't do well online?
 - *Yes, if parents request this for their child. The school division would prefer students to access live instruction and posted content through our learning management system.*

- Will help be available for students completing packet work?
 - *Just like students accessing our learning management system online, students working on packets are assigned to teachers who will be available to support students.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: VIRTUAL LEARNING Q & A

- Will the same teacher teach in person AND virtually?
 - *Most of our teachers will be assigned totally virtual responsibilities or in-person responsibilities. There are some teachers who will need to do both.*
- Will there be more virtual classes to pick from versus in-person schooling?
 - *The courses offered virtually will mirror the courses we would have offered with in-person instruction.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: VIRTUAL LEARNING Q & A

- What if my child needs help? How will they contact a teacher in a timely fashion?
 - *Teachers will be interacting with students each day to provide help and support. Teachers will have regular office hours to connect with students who are struggling, have questions, or need support.*

- What if I do not have a computer or Internet for online days or 100% virtual? Will there be a lower cost option for Internet?
 - *The school division has provided computers and Internet hotspots at no-cost to families. Please contact your child's principal if you still need support with technology equipment.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: VIRTUAL LEARNING Q & A

- How will we be providing emotional support for online students? Would mental health check-ins be possible?
 - *Our school counselors, psychologists, and Therapeutic Day Treatment staff will be available to support students and families with resources and supports.*
- Who will train students who are completely online to use the computer/Internet/Canvas, etc.? How will parents be supported with tech questions from home?
 - *Our students will be provided video instruction about the technology resources provided to them. Also, each school has staff who are assigned to technology support roles. They are happy to help families troubleshoot any issues.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: VIRTUAL LEARNING Q & A

- What kind of software will be used?
 - *The school division will use Zoom and Canvas.*

- With the social distancing requirements in classroom and buses, as the school year progresses how will you accommodate parents who feel safer to let their children attend a classroom learning environment?
 - *The school division is prioritizing in-person instruction for our youngest and most vulnerable learners. Parents can contact the principal and discuss their concerns and determine the most appropriate course of action.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: SPECIAL CONCERNS

- How will band, art, and other electives be handled?
 - *In-person students will participate in these electives while maintaining social-distancing and while wearing a mask. Totally remote students will participate using a variety of technology that allows for performances and demonstrations.*
- Students who have OT, PT, or Speech Therapy- what will that look like? Are therapists expected to provide service at 6-foot distance?
 - *Our therapists are providing in-person and virtual services that are aligned with a student's Individualized Education Program. They are within 6-feet of the students, but they limit the time, and have access to a variety of personal protective equipment to protect themselves and the child.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: SPECIAL CONCERNS

- My child has an IEP and is unlikely to be successful with online schooling. What options are available to them? Will they have easy access to teachers?
 - *Many of our most vulnerable students with disabilities have been receiving in-person instruction. Our special educators are in regular communication with students and families. If there is a concern, please contact your child's case manager.*
- How will WPS protect equity for students who are disadvantaged by economics, parental support, or other factors?
 - *Our school division is actively working to invite students who are most vulnerable into our schools. Our School Nutrition department is providing free breakfast and lunch and our school counselors and school psychologist are ready to support students either in-person or remotely.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: SPECIAL CONCERNS

- Will work and support be provided in Spanish for Spanish speaking families who do not speak English?
 - *Yes, we have a long-standing partnership with a company called Volatia. The company translates documents and videos into Spanish so our Spanish speaking families are able to access the content. Also, many of our English Learners have been invited to attend school in-person.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: OTHER SCHOOLS/STUDENT RELATED

- Will a mask be provided to a child who forgets to bring one?
 - *Yes, we have a variety of mask options for students that will be provided.*
- Will everybody have their temperature checked when they arrive at school?
 - *Yes, we have no-touch forehead thermometers that will be used when staff and students arrive.*
- Will there be a time scheduled for my child to meet their teacher and see the classroom before school starts? How about middle & high school finding classes prior to the first day?
 - *Each school will make this determination, but most likely the students will rely on the staff members who will be visible at arrival for support to get to the right place.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: OTHER SCHOOLS/STUDENT RELATED

- How will bathrooms be sanitized after each use and monitored during the school day?
 - *The custodians and other staff members have a cleaning schedule that ensures that high-touch surfaces in the school are disinfected regularly.*
- Why will students not have to wear masks in class? When will masks be required at school? What areas?
 - *Masks are required to be worn all day with designated “mask breaks” throughout the day. More specific guidance is found at:*
http://www.waynesboro.k12.va.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server_215122/File/Reopening%20Plan/Mask%20Requirements%20October%202020.pdf



COMMUNITY SURVEY: OTHER SCHOOLS/STUDENT RELATED

- Who will ensure that custodians and teachers clean properly?
 - *The administrators are responsible for ensuring our cleaning checklist to slow the spread of COVID-19 is being completed on a daily basis.*
- How will students be able to fill water bottles?
 - *Students are encouraged to come to school with a full water bottle. The school division has ordered bottle filling stations that are no-touch for all of our locations.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: OTHER SCHOOLS/STUDENT RELATED

- Will there be HVAC updates to reduce germ spread?
 - *The school division is in regular communication with our HVAC contractor to maintain our systems with preventative maintenance and repairs. Recently, the School Board approved HVAC chiller replacements at two locations.*
- What will happen during fire/lockdown/evacuations to keep children safe and distanced?
 - *Each school has plans to space children and students out when responding to an emergency or drills are conducted. Our staff know to act with the information that they have at the time and to make reasonable decisions to protect the safety of all.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: OTHER SCHOOLS/STUDENT RELATED

- Will there be tape on floors and dividing halls to show a direction?
 - *Yes, our schools have a variety of markers on the floor and on the walls to provide guidance for students and staff.*
- What will close the school system? A specific number of positive cases? A rise in the city's positives/deaths?
 - *The school division is in daily contact with the Central Shenandoah Health Department. If there is transmission of COVID-19 in our schools that is verified with contact tracing, the Health Department will make a recommendation to Dr. Cassell. It is unlikely that all schools would close. A particular classroom or school may be impacted, but the chances of that happening are low based on the data that we have seen so far this school year.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: OTHER SCHOOLS/STUDENT RELATED

- If a student refuses to wear a mask while inside the school building (or on a bus), what will happen?
 - *Our experience is that almost all students are able to wear a mask all day. If they refuse and there is no medical reason for the refusal, the student will only have access to totally remote instruction.*
- When my child observes unsafe behavior how can this be reported? What will consequences be? What oversight will be in place for COVID procedures? Who will teacher speak to about violations of the COVID procedures? When can the health department be contacted for violations of the COVID procedures?
 - *Anyone can contact their building administrator(s), Mandi McComas, Head Nurse, or Dr. Barber, Executive Director of Student Services with any concerns. The Health Department has a process to file a complaint and that option is available to any citizen.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: BUS TRANSPORTATION

- How will buses be cleaned and sanitized? How often?
 - *The electrostatic sprayer is used weekly on the school buses and our drivers have access to the hydrogen peroxide cleaning solution to disinfect the buses on a daily basis.*
- How many students can a bus safely carry at one time with social distancing?
 - *The school division is able to transport one student per seat, unless family members are riding together. As a result, most buses can carry between 22 and 26 students.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: BUS TRANSPORTATION

- Will bus seat availability be rationed since there are fewer seats?
 - *Families are encouraged to transport their child to and from school as much as possible. The buses will have to make double runs to maintain the social distancing requirements.*
- Will students on buses be masked? How will it be enforced? Can students be denied bus transportation if not wearing a mask? Will masks be provided for students getting on the bus without a mask?
 - *Students are required to wear a mask on buses. Students who refuse to wear a mask will not be permitted to ride a school bus. Our bus drivers have masks to offer students who are getting on the bus without a mask.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: BUS TRANSPORTATION

- Will bus driver temperatures be taken each morning? Will students' temperatures be taken at bus stops? How will parents without transportation pick up a child if they present with a temperature at school?
 - *All employees have to complete a daily self-screening of COVID-19 prior to coming to work. Employees who have any symptoms are not permitted to work. Temperatures of students will not be taken at the bus stop. The school division is concerned that a child with a temperature would be not allowed to ride and unable to get back in their home creating more of a safety concern. Our school division will work with families who are having transportation difficulties and have a sick child at school.*
- How will, given multiple bus runs per school, children arrive in a timely fashion to school? Will buses run earlier because of the health screenings at school?
 - *Our buses will efficiently get children to school, but we are always looking for more bus drivers to join our team. The health screenings take about 2 seconds for each child. A delay at arrival is not expected.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: BUS TRANSPORTATION

- Will there be supervisory aides on each bus to monitor social distancing?
Will social distancing be required at bus stops?
 - *If there is a concern on a particular bus, school administrators will work with the bus driver to address the concern. If children refuse to maintain social distancing then a loss of bus privilege may be required. At the bus stop, the school division has to rely on support from parents to monitor their child.*
- If a bus rider gets COVID-19, will all students, their families, and bus drivers be notified and/or required to quarantine?
 - *Yes, everyone will be notified. The requirements to quarantine are unique to each situation, but the school division follows the guidance of the Health Department.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: CAR RIDERS

- For children who are dropped off at school, will the parent be required to wait until temperatures are taken before leaving?
 - *Yes, the entire process takes just a couple of seconds.*
- How will afternoon pick up of children occur in a way that is social distanced and minimizes contact with other classes and grades?
 - *There are stickers and tape on the floor designating where students need to stand to wait for their car. The staff will monitor social distancing and address any issues.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: CAR RIDERS

- Will there be an extended time windows for pick up and drop off?
 - *No, modifications to our arrival and dismissal times for car riders is not necessary.*
- Can students be dropped off early, so they do not have to ride the bus?
 - *No, we don't have the appropriate staffing levels for safety if children arrive early.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: STAFF RELATED

- Are individual teachers allowed to require students to wear masks in their classroom at all times?
 - *Yes, but students are allowed to have "mask breaks" as directed by the staff. Our mask guidance is found at:*
http://www.waynesboro.k12.va.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server_215122/File/Reopening%20Plan/Mask%20Requirements%20October%202020.pdf
- When will teachers eat lunch and use the restroom?
 - *Principals will work with staff to arrange for planning times and lunch.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: STAFF RELATED

- Are teachers required to clean and sanitize their classrooms? Even teachers with life-threatening illnesses?
 - *Yes, all staff members are part of the solution to slow the spread of COVID-19. If a staff member has particular concerns about cleaning then that person needs to speak to their administrator to request accommodations.*
- What about teachers who live with someone with risk factors that put them at serious risk?
 - *Staff members who have significant concerns about family members at risk of a COVID-19 exposure should consult a medical provider and Human Resources.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: STAFF RELATED

- Will teachers be tested for COVID-19 periodically?
 - *No, this has not been advised by the Central Shenandoah Health Department.*
- How are you protecting teachers? Will teachers be provided PPE (mask, face shields, etc.)?
 - *All staff have access to face shields, cloth masks, neck gaiters, KN95 masks, and disinfecting cleaning products. Each employee is asked to communicate with our Head Nurse about any COVID-19 related concerns and questions.*
- Does the school plan to hire more nurses?
 - *Yes. Our Head Nurse, Mandi McComas, has joined our team. In the past our Head Nurse was based in a school. With all of the responsibilities, it was an almost impossible job. Now, Mrs. McComas is able to work directly with nurses, students, and staff on a more regular basis and support our school division with medical advice as we make decisions related to COVID-19.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: HEALTH RELATED Q & A

- What happens when there is a positive COVID-19 test?
 - *All staff and students arriving at school are asked if they have had contact with a positive COVID-19 case within the past 14 days. If the answer is yes, the staff and student are not allowed to enter the building until the situation is reviewed by administration and the nursing staff.*
 - *If a teacher or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the school, in collaboration with the local health department, will assist in contact tracing to determine any close contacts (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) that would need to be on quarantine for 14 days after exposure. The teacher will return to school at the end of their isolation period (10 days past onset of symptoms). Families will be notified by a letter of the positive teacher, staff member, or student in the school.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: HEALTH RELATED Q & A

- If a student or teacher contracts COVID-19 or is presumed positive, will all who came in contact be notified and required to have a 14-day quarantine?
- *Contact tracing will be completed in the school to identify all close contacts (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more) of positive and presumed positive COVID-19 cases. The close contacts will be immediately notified and placed on 14 days of quarantine from the last exposure of the positive or presumed positive case.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: HEALTH RELATED Q & A

- Will testing be made available to students and employees as needed?
 - *Waynesboro Public Schools plays a role in identifying students and staff who have COVID-19 symptoms or who have had recent known or potential exposure. Administrative staff along with nursing staff will help link students and their families and staff to other opportunities for testing in the community.*



COMMUNITY SURVEY: HEALTH RELATED Q & A

- How will you distinguish between common illnesses/allergies and COVID-19?
 - *CDC does not currently recommend universal symptom screenings (screening all students grades K-12) be conducted by schools. Parents or caregivers should be strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness every day. Students who are sick should not attend school in-person.*

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html>



QUESTIONS???

- Dr. Jeffrey Cassell, Superintendent, jcassell@waynesboro.k12.va.us
- Mrs. Vermell Grant, Assistant Superintendent, vgrant@wayensboro.k12.va.us
- Mr. Tim Teachey, Executive Director of Instruction, tteachey@waynesboro.k12.va.us
- Dr. Ryan Barber, Executive Director of Student Services, rbarber@waynesboro.k12.va.us
- Mr. Jody Lohr, Executive Director of Technology, jlohr@waynesboro.k12.va.us
- Mrs. Vonda Hutchinson, Executive Director of Finance, vhutchinson@waynesboro.k12.va.us
- Your building principal
- Central Office- 540-946-4600

