

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

September 7, 2021

SAFELY BACK TO SCHOOL

Quarantine Learning Contingency Plans

Walla Walla Public Schools has developed contingency plans for continued learning should individual students, classrooms or entire schools be required to quarantine if COVID outbreaks occur in schools.

Last night Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith and Health Services Director Amy Ruff reviewed the district's Quarantine Learning Contingency Plans.

The district developed Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to explain quarantine scenarios.

Q: When would my child need to quarantine?

A: Per WaDOH, if they are less than 3ft from an individual with COVID-19 for at least 15 cumulative minutes over a 24 hour period.

Q: How will I be notified?

A: Families will be notified personally if their child needs to quarantine.

Q: How long will my child need to quarantine?

A: If your child is fully vaccinated, or recently recovered from COVID in the last 3 months, they do not need to quarantine unless they exhibit symptoms. All other students are recommended to quarantine for 14 days per WaDOH guidelines. Students may be permitted to return a few days earlier, if symptom free, and they test negative under the district's testing protocols.

Q: How will my child's educational needs be met during quarantine?

A: Unless an entire classroom or school is required to quarantine, educational activities will be handled in a traditional out-of-school absence manner.



Dr. Wade Smith
Superintendent

"Fully vaccinated students do not have to quarantine unless they exhibit symptoms. We do not expect to see entire classes quarantined in our middle schools and high schools because many of the students are vaccinated."

Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent

Q: Under what circumstances will an entire classroom need to quarantine?

A: Per WaDOH, when multiple laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases among students occur in a classroom within a 14-day period, where transmission can be linked to in-classroom spread, entire classrooms may need to quarantine. This is more likely to occur at the elementary level since vaccines are not available to students under 12. Classroom quarantine at the secondary level would only impact non-vaccinated students.

Q: Under what circumstances would an entire school need to quarantine?

A: After consultation with local health officials, if there are multiple quarantined classrooms or uncontrolled viral spread at your child's school, it may necessitate the entire school to quarantine for up to 14 days to ensure safety and curb transmission.

To learn more about quarantine processes, testing availability, and other school safety measures, visit:

- <https://www.wwps.org/safelyback>

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »

Minutes from August 17 regular business meeting, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, non-athletic extra & co-curricular contracts, September 7 accounts payable and August payroll, and Washington State School Directors' Association Boards of Distinction Application.

BACK TO SCHOOL VIDEO »

In case you missed it, visit the district's YouTube page to watch School Board President Derek Sarley and Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith welcome staff back for the 2021-2022 school year. This informative video has important back-to-school information and inspirational messages to help start the new school year.

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH »

September is Suicide Prevention Month. Suicide continues to be the second leading cause of death for children and adolescents. Rates of ideation, hospitalization and deaths by suicide remain alarming.

The district will be teaching students age-appropriate lessons in healthy and unhealthy communication, healthy coping skills, how to help a friend, and when to seek a trusted adult for support.

This year WWPS is able to expand the Sources of Strength Program to Garrison, Pioneer, Wa-Hi, and Lincoln. Sources of Strength is a program that promotes seeking help and developing coping strategies.

If you or a loved one need support REACH OUT! The local Crisis Hotline is (509) 524-2999, the National LifeLine is (800) 273-TALK (8255), or you can text HOME to 741741. Staff and students can also reach out to their school counselor for additional supports and resources.

EMPLOYMENT ...

Certificated:

IDOLINA "NINA" MARTINEZ, TEMP 2ND GR DUAL LANGUAGE, GREEN PARK (2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR)

ZACHARY ROBERTS, SP ED AUTISM, GREEN PARK

JASON SCHAFER, 4TH GR DUAL LANG, EDISON

Classified:

CAROLINA BRUNO, BIL ASST SEC, BERNEY

COUNTESS BUNKER, PARA-ED, GREEN PARK

GRACE FRITZKE, PARA-ED, SHARPSTEIN

RUBEN GARANZUAY, BIL CAMPUS SUP, GARRISON MS

DACIA KASENGA, TEMP PARA-ED, PROSPECT PT (2021-22)

MICHELLE KOSKELA, PARA-EDUCATOR, WA-HI

MARCUS MELTON, TEMP PARA-ED, BERNEY (2021-22)

RICHARD "COREY" MOORE, BUS DR, TRANSPORTATION

ANGELIQUE PAULL, PARA-EDUCATOR, PIONEER MS

GLADYS SALGADO QUEZADA, PARA-ED, EDISON

NICOLE VIOLET, PARA-ED, GREEN PARK

TATIYANNA WELLS, PARA-ED, PROSPECT POINT

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENTS ...

Classified:

KATHY CARRANZA, WA-HI, 9 YEARS

DARREN CROWELL, TRANSPORTATION, 2 YEARS

MARTHA FLORES-ROJAS, EDISON, 9 YEARS

TRUDY MORRIS, WALLA WALLA HIGH SCHOOL, 26 YEARS

ANNE-MARIE NOTARAS, LINCOLN HS, 20 YEARS

LAURI RICHARDSON, TRANSPORTATION, 7 YEARS

TERI TURNER, BERNEY ELEMENTARY, 10 YEARS

ALISHA WALKER, PROSPECT POINT, 1.5 YEARS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE ...

Certificated:

TANYA ESQUIVEL, FIFTH GRADE TEACHER, GREEN PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 2 YEARS

• 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR TO COMPLETE HER MASTER'S

Classified:

YAHAIRA CRUZ, HEAD START ASSISTANT TEACHER, WWCCF, 7.5 YEARS

• FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

MIRANDA MCGEE, PARA-EDUCATOR, BERNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 2 YEARS

• FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Staff and students excited for the new school year

Last night Music Coordinator Roger Garcia, Pioneer MS Principal Kris Duncan, Wa-Hi Principal Ron Higgins, Wa-Hi Football Coach Greg Lupfer, Wa-Hi Drama Director Kristin Hessler and Prospect Point teacher Suzann Rose shared highlights from the first day.

Collectively the presenters said this first day of school was extra special following 18 months of schedule interruptions and alternative learning models due to the pandemic. They reported students and staff were happy to be back on campus and said all of the students complied with the mask requirements.

Steps are in place this school year to help students accelerate their learning. Additional home visitors, counselors, community support opportunities and academic specialists are some of the new supports in place as part of the district's pandemic recovery plan. School board members thanked staff and students for making the first day of school a huge success.

