



March 17, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Walla Walla Public Schools faculty and staff have been working around the clock in support of our students and families as a result of campus closures. This correspondence relays critical information as we support you and your child through at least the April 24 closure mandate. Included is information regarding our Distance Learning Program, meal availability for students, childcare services for certain families, and answers to frequently asked questions. A comprehensive overview of this information can also be accessed on our COVID-19 Distance Learning Web Portal accessed at [www.wwps.org/distancelearning](http://www.wwps.org/distancelearning)

No doubt we are facing extraordinary times; unlike any of us have experienced before. We understand our students, families, and entire community will be deeply affected by COVID-19. However, I am blessed to work with over 800 of the most caring, passionate, and dedicated employees a superintendent could ask for. It won't be easy, but we will do everything within our power to lessen the impact on students and families. Please carefully review the following information and important dates/announcements. If there is anything our schools and I can do to assist you, please don't hesitate to contact us at (509) 527-3000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wade Smith', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Wade Smith, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

## **Distance Learning Starts Monday, March 23 for All WWPS Students**

District leaders and staff have worked diligently to provide a quality learning experience for students during this transition to ensure continuation of their learning occurs. Ability to master grade-level content, earn credits, remain on track for graduation, and keep students and families connected with their teachers is our paramount obligation. Preschool and elementary-aged students will be supported with weekly learning materials, customized and created exclusively by their homeroom teacher and specialists. Middle and high school students will receive their daily instruction from their teachers through the Google Classroom platform.

Walla Walla Public Schools understands that additional oversight and accountability will be required from students and families to ensure a successful distance learning experience for all. We empathize with the burden this responsibility places on families, and the various capacities individual parents have to support this effort. Your student's teacher(s) and district staff stand ready to assist you with this task.

### **Preschool and Elementary Program Overview:**

To support as seamless as possible experience for your child, WWPS will be providing a comprehensive weekly take-home learning experience for your student. Created by your student's classroom teacher, learning packets will be developed and deployed every week to ensure continuity of learning and progression. Instructional materials in areas such as reading, math, science, music and even physical education will be developed by your student's current teachers and specialists. Classroom teachers will provide take home instructions on how to best support your student lessons and will be available, by phone and email, to answer questions or help guide your progress with your student.

Weekly learning packets will be available for pick-up, at your student's school from 7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. every Monday at the front door to your school beginning March 23. School staff will assist you curbside in providing your packet to you and collecting the prior week's packet, with completed work, back from you. Families who are unable to pick up their student learning packets may have a friend or neighbor pick up the packet on your behalf. Additionally, you can contact your student's school, where arrangements can be made to deliver your packet if transportation or access is problematic for you.

Learning Packet Pick-up Schedule: 7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Every Monday (except Spring Break) on March 23, March 30, April 13, and April 20. Tentatively, students are scheduled to return back to regular school operations with their packet on Monday, April 27.

### **6-12 Program Overview and Technology Pick-up Schedule:**

Middle and High school instruction will be provided through Google Classroom. Accessible via the web, Google Classroom is a cloud-based platform connected to your student's WWPS Gmail account. Each of your student's teachers will be interacting with your child through the Google Classroom interface. Most students have had significant experience with Google Classroom in their regular school setting, so we anticipate many will not have issues navigating the system. Our technology helpdesk (contacts below) stand ready to assist students and parents with any difficulties.

Students are required to log on daily, Monday through Friday, and complete the coursework and instructional activities assigned by their teachers. Just like traditional school settings, it is critical that students keep up with their assignments, stay in digital contact with their teacher as requested, and that families carefully monitor student progress. Expectation for student attendance/participation online is the same as it is in a traditional setting. Earning of high school credits throughout this experience is critical to ensure students remain on track for graduation. Teachers need your help in setting high expectations at home and ensuring your student follows through by keeping up.

## **Distance Learning Starts Monday, March 23 for All WWPS Students (continued)**

Prior to school closures your student completed a survey informing the district if their household did not have access to a computer and/or internet. We have prepared Chromebooks available for checkout for those who noted that they did not have access to a computer and secured Verizon hot spots for those who needed computer and internet access.

Pick up of technology will occur on Monday, March 23 from 7:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. at the front entrance of your student’s school (Pioneer, Garrison, Lincoln, or Wa-Hi). Parents need to be present with or without their student to sign out for the technology. If you are unable to make it to the campus that day, please contact 509-527-3010 or [helpdesk@wwps.org](mailto:helpdesk@wwps.org) to make arrangements.

## **Other Programs and Information**

### **Meal Services for All Students**

Food services will be available for all students, free of charge, regardless if they qualify for free or reduced lunch. A sack lunch and breakfast, one per student, can be picked up daily at designated sites located across the WWPS attendance area. Students individually or a parent/guardian accompanied by their student(s), may pick up meals at whichever site is most convenient.

Meals can be picked up at each site, curbside, Monday through Friday, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. A lunch and the following day's breakfast will be included. Meal services will continue during Spring Break. On a case-by-case basis, WWPS will deliver meals to families. To arrange for delivery please contact us at 509-527-3016.

Meal Service Locations: Sharpstein Elementary (Howard St side), Blue Ridge Elementary (roundabout in front of main entrance), Garrison Middle School (front of school), Pioneer Middle School (front of school), Prospect Point Elementary (near bus loop along Howard), Berney Elementary (near staff parking along School Ave), Edison Elementary (front of school), Green Park Elementary (near gym entrance), Lincoln (4th St side), Vista Terrace Park, Washington Park and Veteran's Memorial Park. For questions, please contact: Pamela Milleson at (509) 527-3016 or [pmilleson@wwps.org](mailto:pmilleson@wwps.org).

### **Childcare Services for Specific Families**

When the Governor issued his order to close schools, he also included a provision to provide childcare services to specific families. In order to support critical care providers and vulnerable students, Walla Walla Public Schools will offer free, student-aged childcare supervision at all school sites from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Eligible children include current WWPS students (Preschool-grade 12) whose parent(s)/guardian(s) are first responders who otherwise do not have coverage, students identified as homeless and students with significant disabilities. The district has expanded the definition of first responders to include any student whose parent/guardian works for a medical provider or in the medical field, police officers/critical prison personnel, firefighters, rescuers, military personnel or key public works personnel. The childcare program will follow social distancing guidelines, offer nutrition services and provide a learning environment. Transportation will be available upon request. For more information, contact Pam Clayton at (509) 526-6730 or at [childcare@wwps.org](mailto:childcare@wwps.org).

## Anticipated Frequently Asked Questions

During this school closure, are parents and/or students allowed access to the building?

- Only students pre-approved to participate in the district's childcare program are permitted access into buildings. There may be unique circumstances where access is coordinated with students/parents related to special education services and meetings. All other access will not be permitted.

Can students/public come on campus to use outside facilities (e.g. track and fields)? Who has access?

- The district is not permitted to allow organized use of outside district facilities (e.g. parks and rec programs, formal facility use requests for events). However, the public is still permitted access, during normal hours, to campus grounds. Monitoring of activities will not be provided and community/student use should be carefully considered, taking into account social distancing recommendations and precautions. Any significant congregation of students or community members is prohibited.

How is the district supporting students who are identified for special education and related services?

- District staff will be communicating the expectation and plan to confer with Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams, including parents, to address student-specific needs resulting from the temporary closure. WWPS will make every effort to fully implement every student's IEP or 504 plan. Alternative methods to deliver services during the temporary delay, in consultation with parents and the team, may include academic and speech work through online and printed packets, occupational and physical therapy options for students to work on at home, or specific cases where students may be served at their home or at the school site. Special education teachers, speech therapists, occupational and physical therapists will contact families regularly to ensure progress and provide any needed support. IEP evaluation and reevaluation timelines will still be followed. Special education staff will be in contact with parents to arrange necessary coordination.

If I have questions about my student's special needs, whom do I contact?

- Your child's special education teacher, or Marianne O'Leary, Special Education Secretary at (509) 526-6724.

How is the district supporting students who are identified as English Language Learners?

- The district will make every effort to support ELL students during this temporary closure. Most students who are identified as English Language Learners (ELLs) receive necessary support in their general education setting. These students will continue to receive ELL support through the content provided by the classroom teacher. Students who are identified as "Emerging," or "Level 1," will receive additional education and access through a variety of resources and individualized support provided by the Department of Equity and Dual Programs.

If I have questions about my student's language needs, whom do I contact?

- Questions about a student's language needs can be directed to the Department of Equity and Dual Programs, at (509) 526-6784 or (509) 526-6789.

Can coaches or advisers provide private, face-to-face coaching of student athletes/participants?

- No. In accordance with guidance provided by OSPI, coaches, advisers and other school adults will not be providing face-to-face, individualized or small-group interaction/coaching of participants. We are encouraging our coaches and advisers, however, to provide training and other related suggestions, routines, and exercises that participants can perform individually during the closure period.

How can I contact my student's teacher?

- Teachers can be contacted by phone and by email. Your school front office will be available to share email and phone contacts for staff.