



WWPS Fall Educational Plans

Update from Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith
July 2020

Introduction

Walla Walla Public Schools is in the process of finalizing plans to safely and effectively educate our valley's youth come fall 2020. The information below is intended to provide parents and students an update on our educational approach as we strive to provide an exceptional and safe learning experience come September 8.

Over the last three months, staff, parents and students have been deeply engaged in helping the school district develop its safe return to school plans. Thousands of respondents have provided critical survey feedback. In addition, focus group interviews with students and 10 different workgroups consisting of dozens of staff and community partners helped refine our approach.

The following two learning options will be available to students and families in the fall:

Option #1: In-person AM/PM Model with a Distance Learning 2.0 Contingency

If circumstances surrounding the virus support the opportunity to safely provide in-school instruction in the fall, the district will be implementing an AM/PM Model. Under this program, students attend approximately half their student day in-person on campus and half their day in a distance learning format from home. This approach maximizes face-to-face instruction while adhering to strict social distancing expectations in order to keep students and staff safe.

- By mid-August, if fall in-person instruction for most students is deemed not sufficiently safe at that time, or if the district needs to pivot from the AM/PM in-person model to an online scenario due to health/safety concerns after fall start up, we will be implementing a Distance Learning 2.0 contingency. Under this scenario, students will receive approximately half of their instruction in a synchronous online setting with their classroom teacher(s) [e.g. daily, scheduled classroom instruction over videoconferencing from their teacher(s)]. Students will complete their remaining instruction in a distance learning format from home. This will ensure an optimal learning experience while allowing the district the ability to efficiently transition to the AM/PM in-person model as soon as it is safe to do so.

Option #2: Online Experience Through Walla Walla Online

Walla Walla Online is a fully online experience with the greatest learning flexibility. Students will be assigned a Walla Walla teacher who will serve as their learning coach, assisting them in their independent online learning experience. Under this model, students learn at their own pace, utilizing a high quality digital learning platform. This model may be preferable for families where the AM/PM in-person model presents health/safety concerns or where the structured times of AM/PM and/or the Distance Learning 2.0 contingency may be problematic.

Why did you choose the AM/PM approach for in-person learning?

- The AM/PM model allows for daily contact and connection with our students, Monday thru Friday, for continuity and social/emotional supports.
- It better complies with current CDC recommendations by limiting the number of transitions per day at secondary schools while keeping students in cohorts at the elementary level.
- Split-shifting most students allows a full-day experience for nearly 1,500 students with identified needs.
- It permits the district to align start and stop times, preschool thru grade 12, so families can be on the same bussing and school bell schedules.

How are you ensuring my child's safety?

The safety of students and staff continues to be the district's top priority. Walla Walla Schools is following guidance from local, state and national health experts in developing comprehensive cleaning, screening, and protection protocols to ensure the safest learning experience possible. Routine classroom cleaning between AM/PM shifts and class periods, deep cleaning measures, hand sanitization supplies readily available, frequent handwashing practices and facility modifications have all been implemented to support the health and wellbeing of all. In addition, the planned AM/PM shifting schedule ensures state physical distancing requirements can be met at all locations.

District nursing and health staff continue to collaborate with local health officials as we finalize our safety protocols and procedures. Our comprehensive *COVID-19 Prevention, Response and Recovery Plans* will be communicated to families prior to the start of school.

What will school look like for preschool and elementary students in the AM/PM model?

Individual classroom enrollment will be reduced, where approximately half of the students will attend in the morning and the other half of the class in the afternoon. This will ensure class sizes of around 10-12 students at a time. While in school, students will remain together with their classroom peers receiving essential core instruction in subjects such as reading, language arts and math. Physical education, music and library/media instruction will also be provided. When not in school, students will be assigned extension activities to apply their in-school instruction. Additionally, students will receive high quality digital learning in the areas of science, social studies and electives. All elementary students will be provided a Chromebook device after the start of school that will remain at home to ensure access and completion of homework and digital instruction. Internet connectivity will also be available on a case-by-case basis.

What will school look like for middle and high school students in the AM/PM model?

Similar to the elementary level, secondary students will be assigned to half-day sessions; either in the AM or PM. This will reduce traditional student loads by approximately 50 percent to about 12-14 students in class at any time. Students will attend periods 1-3 on one day and then attend periods 4-6 the next day, alternating every day. Teachers will assign homework for each class following every face-to-face session so that student learning continues and grade-level progress is made. Chromebooks will also be provided to every student to complete necessary work online. Unlike elementary, middle and high school students will be required to bring the device to and from school every day in a district-provided carrying case. Internet connectivity will also be available on a case-by-case basis.

What are the specific school start, stop and arrival times for fall under the AM/PM model?

	AM Session			PM Session		
	Student Arrival No Earlier Than	AM Session Begins	AM Session Ends	Student Arrival No Earlier Than	PM Session Begins	PM Session Ends
Elementary School	7:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:35 AM	11:50 AM	12:05 PM	2:40 PM
Middle School	7:40 AM	7:55 AM	10:41 AM	11:35 AM	11:50 AM	2:36 PM
High School	7:35 AM	7:50 AM	10:41 AM	11:26 AM	11:41 AM	2:32 PM

Which students will be provided a full day experience?

Based on current CDC guidance, the district maintains sufficient classroom capacity to safely serve about 1,500 students through a full day model. The district has identified specific special education, English Language Learner and opportunity-gap and/or credit deficient students who will be provided a full day experience. Families will be contacted the week of July 20th to inform them if their child has been identified by school or program staff for a full day assignment.

Is there a fully online option for families/students?

Yes. The district has unveiled a fully online learning experience at Walla Walla Online for students and families who wish to continue their learning off campus. This option is available to students who may need to remain at home due to personal or family health issues, or who may prefer an online experience over face-to-face instruction. To learn more about this comprehensive digital program, visit our website at: <https://wallawallaonline.org>

Fall 2020 parent/family request

On July 23, the district will release an online parent request survey. This survey allows families the opportunity to make a selection as to which learning experience they would prefer; AM, PM or fully online. In addition, for households with more than one student, parents may also request that siblings have the same schedule. The district will make every attempt to honor requests, but capacity, transportation and individual student programming may require some adjustments. We will notify families of student schedules the week of August 6, followed soon thereafter with transportation, food service and other information.

What food services will be available under the AM/PM model?

Students attending half-day sessions will not be served meals on site in order to support safety measures. AM students will receive the current day's lunch and the next day's breakfast in a "grab and go" fashion at the end of their morning shift before departing campus. PM students will receive the following day's breakfast and lunch when they depart. Full day students will receive a "grab and go lunch" to eat onsite in a safe setting. They will also receive the following day's breakfast when they depart.

Where can I find more information?

Please visit our website at www.wwps.org and select the Safely Reopening Schools link at the top of the page. You may also contact your school or the district office at (509) 527-3000.