

# 10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

February 2, 2021

## Middle School Return

*District shifts to Yellow Stage as local COVID cases continue to decline*

Following nearly a one-year break from in-person learning amidst the COVID pandemic, middle school students will begin returning to campuses Tuesday, Feb. 16 utilizing the AM/PM hybrid model.

A steady decline in local COVID cases over the past six weeks, according to data provided by the Walla Walla County Department of Community Health, allowed the district to shift to the yellow stage of its reopening plan. Sixth grade students will be on campuses first, beginning Feb. 16, with 7th and 8th grade students returning Thursday, Feb. 18.

"This phased approach will allow our sixth grade students to have two days on campus without upper grade level students to get orientated to their new schools," said Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith. "For many of these students, it will be their first time in our middle schools."

Based on guidance released by Governor Inslee and the Washington State Department of Health, schools are encouraged to reopen for middle school instruction when cases drop below 350 cases per one hundred thousand population over 14 days. That ratio, when applied to the Walla Walla and College Place communities, equates to approximately 200



**Dr. Wade Smith**  
Superintendent

new cases over a two-week period. This is the same threshold the Walla Walla School Board and Walla Walla Valley Education Association agreed on to begin returning middle school students back to campus. As of Feb. 1, combined case counts between the two jurisdictions were at the 200 mark.

"This week the district will perform its 3rd party on-site safety audit at each middle school site, address specific staff safety accommodations necessary and begin to communicate safety protocols and schedules to our families," said Superintendent Smith. "We are excited to welcome our middle school students safely back on campus and appreciate the community for helping curb the spread of the virus by wearing masks, social distancing and limiting gatherings."

The district will continue to monitor COVID cases closely and work with local health officials as it eyes returning high school students to campus once state recommended targets are met.

## Board Meeting Highlights

### APPROVED »»

Minutes from Jan. 19 executive sessions and regular business meeting, personnel report and Feb. 2 accounts payable and Jan. payroll.

### BUDGET PROCESS »»

Last night School Board President Derek Sarley and Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith shared the outline for the 2021-2022 school year budget development process. Budget planning discussions will begin at the next school board meeting and continue through the summer. Planning considerations for next school year's budget will weigh heavily on revenue loss as a result of the pandemic. Enrollment declines this school year resulted in a \$3M revenue loss. Board members will approve a budget August 17.

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH »»

Walla Walla Public Schools joins countries across the globe in recognizing February as Black History Month. The Black History Month 2021 theme, "Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity" explores the African diaspora, and the spread of Black families across the United States.

### ELEMENTARY CONFERENCES »»

No Elementary PM session - Friday, Feb. 5 (K-5 report card preparation)

- No School (K-5 only) – Feb. 11 and 12 (Parent/Teacher conferences)

- Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences are virtual via ZOOM

- Conference Scheduler Link: <https://www.wws.org/conferences>

Risk Key:			January 19, 2021 to February 1, 2021						
High	>350cases/100K/14days								
Medium	50-350 cases/100K/14days								
Low	<50 cases/100K/14days								
			14 Day Date Range						
Geographic Area	Population	Case Cutoffs	12/19 to 1/1	12/26 to 1/8	1/2 to 1/15/21	1/9 to 1/22/21	1/13 to 1/26/21	1/16 to 1/29/21	1/19 to 2/1/21
Walla Walla Co.	62,580	220[219-31]30	537	553	512	458	348	314	278
Walla Walla	44,650	157[156-22]21	276	289	243	191	166	160	148
College Place	9,780	34[33-4]3	68	74	67	54	43	40	45
Waitsburg	1,240	4[3-1]0	14	11	8	3	2	0	1
Prescott	330	2[1]0	6	13	22	14	9	2	6
Touchet	407	2[1]0	3	4	7	13	9	9	6
Burbank	3378	11[10-1]0	22	27	20	14	16	14	15
Dixie	495	2[1]0	1	1	1	3	2	4	2
WA St. Penitentiary	2300	NA	147	134	144	166	101	85	55

**EMPLOYMENT ...**

**Classified:**

MARICELA VILLAGOMEZ | BIL PARA-ED (TEMP), WWCCP

**RESIGNATION/RETIREMENTS ...**

**Classified:**

MARTIN FORTNEY | PIONEER MS, 6.5 YRS

SEAN TAVAKOLI | PIONEER MS, 3 YRS

JENNIFER WARNER | GREEN PARK, 6 YRS

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE ...**

**Classified:**

SANDY LEOS | EDISON, 7 YRS

- FOR REMAINDER OF 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

**Quote of the Week**

"Life itself is your teacher, and you are in a state of constant learning."

Bruce Lee

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK  
FEBRUARY 1-5, 2021  
SCHOOL COUNSELORS: ALL IN FOR ALL STUDENTS

National School Counseling Week 2021 (#NSCW21), "School Counselors: All In for All Students," is Feb. 1-5, 2021, to focus public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within U.S. school systems.

School counselors actively engage students to examine their interests, focusing on positive ways to enhance academic and social/emotional development. Join us in recognizing these essential levy-funded staff!

**Safe Return to Athletics**

Health and safety of student-athletes and coaches top priority as district resumes WIAA activities

The prep sports picture remains cloudy as the road to resuming competition rests on the success of curbing the spread of COVID. The state has been divided into eight regions to measure which phase a community is in. Walla Walla County is joined by Franklin, Benton and Yakima counties for its region. Currently this region, like the rest of the state, is in Phase 1 limiting competitions for most sports.

The district has implemented strict safety protocols as athletes resumed practices for Season 1 this week. The WIAA has published detailed return to competition guidelines available on its website - [waa.com](http://waa.com)

WWPS will continue to monitor cases and participate to the allowable levels.

**HS Athletics/Activities: Seasons, Phases & Levels**

	Season 1	Season 2	Season 3
<b>Low Risk Sports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross Country</li> <li>• Cheer (no contact)</li> <li>• Dance (no contact)</li> <li>• Girls Swim</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Golf</li> <li>• Tennis</li> <li>• Track &amp; Field</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boys Swim</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Risk Sports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls Soccer</li> <li>• Slowpitch Softball</li> <li>• Volleyball</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseball</li> <li>• Boys Soccer</li> <li>• Fastpitch Softball</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bowling</li> <li>• Gymnastics</li> </ul>
<b>High Risk Sports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Football</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basketball</li> <li>• Cheer (w/ contact)</li> <li>• Dance (w/ contact)</li> <li>• Wrestling</li> </ul>



PHASE 1	PHASE 2
FACIAL COVERINGS REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES FOR BOTH PHASES 1 AND 2	
LOW RISK, WHEN CONDUCTED OUTDOORS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competitions allowed (no tournaments)</li> <li>• Maximum of 200 people</li> <li>• No spectators</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competitions allowed (no tournaments)</li> <li>• Maximum of 200 people including spectators</li> </ul>
MODERATE RISK, WHEN CONDUCTED OUTDOORS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practice and training only</li> <li>• Intra-team scrimmages allowed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competitions allowed (no tournaments)</li> <li>• Maximum of 200 people including spectators</li> </ul>
HIGH RISK, WHEN CONDUCTED OUTDOORS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practice allowed if athletes are limited to groups of 6, with each group separated by a buffer zone</li> <li>• Brief close contact (ex: 3 on 3 drills) is permitted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competitions allowed (no tournaments)</li> <li>• Maximum of 200 people including spectators</li> </ul>
LOW RISK, WHEN CONDUCTED INDOORS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy of 500 square feet/person</li> <li>• Practice allowed if athletes are limited to groups of 6, with each group separated by a buffer zone</li> <li>• Brief close contact (ex: 3 on 3 drills) is permitted</li> <li>• Competitions allowed for Swim &amp; Dive only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competitions allowed (no tournaments)</li> <li>• Venues at 25% capacity or 200 individuals, whichever is less</li> </ul>
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HIGH RISK, WHEN CONDUCTED INDOORS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy of 500 square feet/person, separated by a buffer zone</li> <li>• Individual training and practice allowed for athletes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practice and training only</li> <li>• Intra-team scrimmages allowed</li> </ul>

**Safety 1st Training to ensure strict WIAA and district safety protocols are followed, including:**

- Daily screening for symptoms and COVID-19 exposures
- Practicing of social distancing & good hygiene & use of face masks at all times when on campus
- Cleaning and sanitizing procedures
- Clear understanding of our COVID-19 response plans & stringent WIAA/WaDOH guidelines