

HEALTHY WILDCATS, WESTCHESTER STRONG

BACK TO SCHOOL

2021-2022



WESTCHESTER
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

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Dear Families,

One of my favorite days of the year is the first day of school, and I can't wait to see our students return to campus on August 25. It is going to be another exciting year together. The faculty and staff are working diligently to get ready for your child to join us. We are providing the information in this guide to help you and your family prepare as well.

We look forward to seeing the return of some of our familiar routines. This year, we plan for all students and faculty to be able to eat lunch together daily in the Wilson Student Center. We also look forward to having the presence of our parents and volunteers around campus more often than were able last year. All the while, we will continue to monitor health and wellness on our campus and follow the guidelines recommended by medical professionals. We want all of our students, faculty and staff to stay healthy and in school, because we are at our best as a community when we are together, in-person.

The growth and development of each Westchester student will be profound this year. Our faculty will work to inspire each of them to strive for excellence in arts, athletics, academics and moral character. That is our promise. In return, we ask for your cooperation and partnership as we all work together to make this an incredibly successful year. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We look forward to our journey together.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, which appears to read "Cobb Atkinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cobb Atkinson
Head of School

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School Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Friday
8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Opening Dates

August 23-24
Back-to-school events

August 25
First day of school

School Contacts

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Ms. Debb Saie, Receptionist
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The information included in this guide is given according to the health guidance available at the time of publication and is subject to change at any point new information becomes available.

YOUR PORTAL

Parent, Student and Faculty Portals

Westchester's school information system through Veracross provides parents, students and faculty and staff with access to helpful information, documents, forms, links, calendars, billing, directories and other resources through password-protected portals. This is where you go throughout the year to update your household's contact information, pay bills, subscribe to calendars, register for events, view report cards and see copies of past school email messages. We encourage you to log in frequently.

Bookmark this link: <http://portals.veracross.com/wcds> or click on the "Login" button at the top-right of the school website, westchestercds.org.



Having Trouble Logging In?

Each parent, faculty/staff member, and student (grades 6-12) has been assigned a school username, which can be used to log in to the portals. Parent usernames follow the format **firstname.lastname.p@westchestercds.org**. You set up your password the first time you log in. After that time if you have forgotten your password, contact Terry Andrews, director of technology, for assistance with resetting it.

Calendar Subscriptions

The portals offer access to a number of different calendars that can be viewed inside the portals. These include the school calendar, which shows public events for all divisions, the athletic calendar, and a household calendar, which may include additional events based on you and/or your student's activities and registrations. You can subscribe to the calendars of your choice, which will add them to the calendar app you use on your phone or computer.

To select calendars, log in to your portal and click on the Calendar Subscriptions button (for parents, it is under the My Household section). You can browse available household and school calendars. Note: The assignment calendars for students in Veracross are not currently in use — MS/US classes use PowerSchool.

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Be sure to check your email regularly to keep up with school news and stay in touch with your student's teachers. Email is the primary means of communication you will receive. You can always call the school if you need to ask questions or relay a message quickly.

This Week at Westchester

You will receive a weekly email newsletter from the school with announcements and other action items for your attention. Please review these announcements carefully. The email newsletter is also archived in the portals so you can look back at it as needed. You can find copies of past emails from Westchester in your portals. Click on the button for My Messages to look back at past emails.

Follow WCDS on Social Media

There are a lot of exciting things happening across campus each day! Follow along with the Westchester social media accounts. These are great places to see photos and announcements and reshare them with your friends and family.

Facebook

facebook.com/westchestercds

YouTube

youtube.com/user/westchestercds

Instagram

instagram.com/westchestercds

Twitter

twitter.com/westchestercds

Shop for Wildcat Spiritwear!

There are two options for shopping for school branded apparel, accessories and gifts. You can shop the on-campus store, [Wildcat Outfitters](#), for items you can pick up same-day or have sent home with your child. For additional selection, including Wildcat gear from favorite brands like Under Armour, you can shop the online-only [Westchester Wildcat Sideline Store](#). Most items can be customized with your preferred logo/colors. Items are fulfilled and shipped directly from BSN Sports. Please allow for additional production and shipping time with these orders.



SUMMER CHECKLIST

Make sure to check off these to-dos by August 25:

- Summer Reading**
Reading lists and summer assignments are posted on the Parent and Student Portals. Be sure to review what is posted for each grade or class and complete before the first day of school.

- Health Forms**
All students must have the Medication Administration form completed and signed by a physician. Additional forms may need to be completed for allergies or other health conditions. Copies of these forms are posted under Helpful Links on the Parent Portal. They must be submitted through Magnus Health by the first day of school.
 - Medication Administration (All Students)
 - Kindergarten Health Form
 - Allergy Health Care Plan
 - Asthma Emergency Care Plan
 - Diabetes Medical Management
 - Seizure Action Plan
 - COVID-19 Vaccination Status (OPTIONAL, students 12 and older)

- Immunizations**
North Carolina requires children who attend school to receive all required immunizations appropriate for their age. Please review and complete the state requirements for kindergarten, 7th grade and 12th grade.

- Sports Physical**
Students in grades 6-12 who are planning to participate in athletics this year must have a physical and complete the necessary paperwork with a primary care provider. The completed form must be submitted through Magnus Health by the first practice.

- Schedule Meet-Your-Teacher Appointment**
You will receive an email prompting you to sign up for a 30-minute time slot for Tuesday, August 24.

No Need to Shop for School Supplies!

Most classroom supplies are included in your tuition and fees, so there's no need to shop right now! In Lower School, students will be provided with the supplies they need to use at school. Middle and Upper School students will receive some supplies at school and may want to purchase other items based on their preference. Teachers will speak with students about the needs of each class when the school year begins.

OPENING EVENTS

Monday, August 23

11:00 a.m. - noon	Senior Student Meeting (Finch Center)
1:00-3:15 p.m.	Student Orientation ALL 6th graders (Library)
	Student Orientation NEW 7th and 8th graders (Library)
	Student Orientation ALL 9th graders (Finch Center)
	Student Orientation NEW 10th-12th graders (Rives Hall)
2:00-2:30 p.m.	Campus Tour 6th-12th Parents NEW to WCDS (Wilson Student Center)
2:30-3:15 p.m.	Meeting for Parents of ALL 6th graders (Library)
	Meeting for Parents of NEW 7th and 8th graders (Library)
	Meeting for Parents of ALL 9th graders (Rives Hall)
	Meeting for Parents of NEW 10th-12th graders (Rives Hall)
4:30-5:15 p.m.	Campus Tour/Meeting for Lower School Parents NEW to WCDS (Wilson Student Center)
5:30-6:30 p.m.	Meeting for Parents of ALL Pre-K Students (Pre-K Classroom)
	Meeting for Parents of ALL Kindergartners (Kindergarten Classrooms)
	Meeting for Parents of ALL Seniors (Library)

Tuesday, August 24

3:00-5:30 p.m.	<p>Meet Your Teacher (Campuswide)</p> <p>Sign up for an appointment time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:00-3:30 p.m. • 3:40-4:10 p.m. • 4:20-4:50 p.m. • 5:00-5:30 p.m.
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Wednesday, August 25

7:00-7:45 a.m.	Before-School Care available in Smith Hall, if needed.
7:45-8:00 a.m.	Students 1st-5th grades arrive through the Lower School Circle (report to homerooms)
	Students 6th-12th grades arrive in front of the Finch Center (report to advisors)
8:00-8:15 a.m.	Pre-K and Kindergarten students arrive through the Lower School Carpool Circle, or you may park and walk your child up to the doorway entrances for the first day.
9:10-9:35 a.m.	Convocation, seniors and parents invited to attend (Finch Center); livestream online available for classrooms and all parents.
9:35 a.m.	Reception for Senior Parents (Wilson Student Center)

WHAT TO BRING

Please have your child bring the following items to school each day:



Face Masks

Face masks are **required indoors** for all faculty, staff, students, parents, volunteers and guests. This is the current recommendation of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), and the WCDS Medical Task Force.

A well-fitted, dual-layer mask with ear loops that fits snugly over the nose and mouth is recommended (consult [this mask guide](#) for more details). Based on last year's experience, we do not recommend gaiters. Masks with an exhalation valve or vent are not allowed. Students should bring two (2) masks to school each day in case one becomes wet or dirty.

Masks do not have to be worn outdoors or by athletes participating in athletic practices or games. Faculty and staff are encouraged to have class outdoors as much as possible when the weather permits.



Backpack

All students should bring a backpack to school each day. Lower School students will store their backpacks on hooks in Smith Hall daily. Middle and Upper School students should prepare to carry their backpacks with them throughout the day if locker use is limited. Students will receive more instructions by division regarding lockers. Rolling backpacks are recommended for Middle School students to help protect the development of their spines.



Water Bottle

Students should bring a water bottle to school each day. Water fountains and bottle filling stations will be available for use throughout campus, but students are encouraged to use them for filling a bottle rather than drinking directly. Student athletes must have a water bottle for practices and games.



Snack

Students in grades 1-5 should bring a healthy snack to school each day. A snack is provided for Pre-K and Kindergarten. Middle and Upper School students may also bring a snack from home to enjoy if they choose. Grades 6-12 should plan to bring a snack each day until snack service in the Wilson Student Center begins in a few weeks.

WHAT TO EXPECT

School Arrival

Before-School Care

Before-School Care will be offered 7:00-7:45 a.m. each day for an additional fee. When students arrive before 7:45 a.m., a parent should escort their child to Smith Hall Room 103 (Lower School Art Room) to greet the Before-School Care teacher.

Arrival Times and Drop-Off Locations

Regular school drop-off is between 7:45 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. each day. Students riding together should arrive at the drop-off location for the youngest student. Lower School drop-off is in the Carpool Circle (Cascade Drive entrance). Middle School and Upper School drop-off is at the driveway in front of the Finch Center (North Old Greensboro Road entrance).

Student Drivers

Students with a driver's license may park on campus during the school day after filling out the required student driver permission form and gaining approval. Student parking is next to the Finch Center.

Late Arrival

Students who arrive after the start of the day should be escorted to the main office in Phillips Hall to sign in and receive a note to enter class.

Parking Decal

All Westchester faculty, parents and student drivers will receive a parking decal for their car at the beginning of the year. The decal is a window cling that should be applied on the inside of your front windshield. Place the decal in the bottom corner of your windshield on the passenger side. The parking decals are a part of our campus security initiative and also identify you as a Westchester community member upon arrival to campus for athletic and special events.



Families dropping off in the Carpool Circle at Smith Hall should use the entrance off of Cascade Drive to arrive and depart campus. When you are leaving via this route onto Cascade Drive, please turn LEFT only.

Those who are dropping off in front of the Finch Center should arrive and depart campus using the entrance from North Old Greensboro Road.

WHAT TO EXPECT

During the School Day

Classroom Setup

Classroom seating will be arranged with 3-foot distancing where feasible in following the current health recommendations for schools.

Hand-Washing

Frequent hand-washing will be built into the daily routine. Hand sanitizer stations are available in classrooms and at building entrances and their use is encouraged during class transitions.

Masks

All staff, faculty, students PK-12, and visitors must wear a mask indoors. Masks are not required outdoors.

Grouping of Students

Students in Lower and Middle School will be grouped in cohorts, and schedules will be arranged to limit mixing between groups. Upper School class selections make it more difficult to form cohorts, which is why Healthy Wildcat Ways (hand-washing, face coverings and physical distancing) should be maintained throughout the school day.

Movement Throughout Campus

Students will be encouraged to allow 3-foot distancing between themselves and others when moving throughout campus. Middle and Upper School classes will have staggered dismissal times to minimize crowding in hallways during class changes.

Enrichment Classes

Lower School enrichment classes such as music, art, and technology will take place normally with either students going to the classroom for a particular enrichment class or with teachers coming to their homeroom. Students will go to physical education with their grade level. PE will be held outdoors as much as possible (weather permitting). Please have your child dress appropriately for the day's weather and remember to send a jacket on cooler days.

Recess

Playground times will be scheduled to limit the number of classes playing at one time. Classes will stay together with their cohort and utilize additional outdoor play spaces. Masks will not be required outdoors.

Lunch

Westchester Food Service staff will prepare and serve lunch for students in the Wilson Student Center. Lunch is provided daily and is included in tuition. In order to provide families with flexibility, students may choose to bring a packed lunch this year. (Refunds for lunch will only be given in the event the whole school is required to transition to distance learning.) Food Service staff will continue to follow local health requirements for cleaning and food safety.

Field Trips

Classes will be able to take field trips this year so long as the health guidelines are able to be followed at the field trip destination. We will follow our bus transportation guidelines.

Class Trips

Annual class trips are a special component of the Middle School and Upper School experience at Westchester. We are researching the feasibility of class trips and will follow up once those determinations are finalized.

Lockers

Students in grades 6-12 will receive more information about lockers on the first day of school. Locker use may be limited to help maintain physical distancing in hallways during class transitions.

Dismissal

Maintaining 3-foot distancing will be encouraged as students are dismissed at the end of the day. Pick-up at dismissal time will take place in the same locations as drop-off. Teachers are available until 3:30 p.m. to meet with students. Students in grades PK-8 who are not to be picked up by a parent at dismissal or after meeting with a teacher should go to the After-School Care program until a parent arrives.

Community Handbook

At the start of the school year, the updated Community Handbook will be shared in one of the weekly emails for all staff and families. Please read this guide carefully, as it includes important details about all aspects of academics and campus life at Westchester.



WHAT TO EXPECT

After-School and Extracurricular Activities

After-School Care

Students in grades PK-8 must be supervised by an adult on campus at all times. After-School Care will be offered until 6:00 p.m. each day for an additional fee. Students will be grouped into cohort groups to limit the potential for COVID-19 exposure if any should occur. Weather permitting, extended outdoor play and organized games will be the main activities for the first hour. Prepackaged snacks will be served and eaten in socially distanced spaces. Students will continue to play with toys and games with Wildcat friends in their cohort groups.

Athletics

Westchester offers Middle School and Varsity teams during the fall, winter and spring sports seasons. The fall season tryouts/practices will begin throughout the weeks leading up to the start of school (see the [full schedule online](#)). The athletic director, trainer and director of health services will work together to implement the guidelines from the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association (NCISAA) to promote student-athlete health and safety. Specific details will be shared with teams as they begin their seasons. The fall season game schedules are posted on the WCDS website and in the calendar subscriptions in the Portals.

Arts

Westchester offers an array of arts opportunities through integration into the classroom curriculum, enrichment classes and extracurricular opportunities for students to engage in creative expression. Music classes, lessons and performances will be held throughout the year within the school's COVID-19 prevention strategies and current health guidelines. This includes guidance for safe singing in the International Coalition Performing Arts Aerosol Study. We will provide updates on specific extracurricular arts programming during the school year.

WCDS School of Music

Private music lessons in piano, violin, guitar, and voice are available to students for an additional fee. These classes can be scheduled either during the school day or after school. These opportunities will be available with added health precautions taken. Registration information will be shared at the start of the school year.

Facilities

Cleaning

Routine cleaning of campus will occur at the end of each day. A day porter will also float throughout campus to clean surfaces in high-traffic areas and bathrooms during the day. Faculty and staff will clean surfaces in their classrooms as needed, such as between class changes, using products recommended for school environments.

Indoor Air Quality

We are monitoring indoor air quality and continuing routine maintenance schedules for our facilities. MERV 13 air filters have been installed throughout campus and are replaced quarterly. The dining area in Wilson Student Center features iWave ion generating air purification. When air passes through the system, ions produced by the device reduce pathogens, allergens, particles and odors in the air. The iWave device has been shown through independent lab testing to reduce a wide variety of pathogens, including COVID-19. Classrooms have operating windows which are able to be opened to allow for additional air flow.

Signage

Educational signage will be used throughout campus to remind the school community of our Healthy Wildcat Ways and any other important health information.

Water Fountains

Water fountains and bottle filling stations are operational throughout campus. Students and staff are encouraged to use them primarily for bottle filling rather than drinking as much as possible to limit the potential for the spread of illness.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Bus Transportation

About Westchester Buses

Westchester provides daily bus transportation to and from several points in the Triad. Our buses pick up and drop off students at central locations and are open to riders for an additional fee. All Westchester bus drivers hold commercial driver's licenses (CDLs).

Lower School bus riders are escorted to their bus by a teacher each afternoon, and drivers do not permit students to leave the bus if a parent or guardian is not at the bus stop at the end of the day. If a parent/guardian is not present at the bus stop, the student is returned to campus and placed in After-School Care until a parent arrives to pick them up (additional fee may apply).

Information about registering for bus transportation will be shared by email before the start of the school year.

Bus transportation is also used to transport students for athletic events, field trips and other extracurricular activities. Bus rules and procedures for COVID-19 apply at all times.

Bus Procedures for COVID-19

- While waiting at the bus stop, riders should maintain 3-foot distancing until boarding.
- Students who are sick or experiencing any of the symptoms listed in the exclusion policy should not board the bus.
- Hand sanitizer should be used prior to boarding and disembarking.
- Students will sit one person to a seat, when feasible (unless with a family member).
- Masks are required to be worn while on the bus at all times.
- Students should not eat or drink on the bus.
- Additional sanitation and cleaning will be done between each use.

2021-22 Bus Routes

Randleman/Archdale/Trinity/Thomasville

Stop	Morning Pick-up	M-TH Drop-off	FRI Drop-off	Cost One Way	Cost Roundtrip
RANDLEMAN: Food Lion, Point South Village	6:50 AM	3:55 PM	2:30 PM	\$715	\$1,300
ARCHDALE: Lowes Foods, Hwy 311	7:10 AM	3:40 PM	2:10 PM	\$630	\$1,150
TRINITY: I-85 and Finch Farm Road	7:25 AM	3:30 PM	2:00 PM	\$605	\$1,100
THOMASVILLE: Tom A. Finch YMCA, Mendenhall Street	7:30 AM	3:20 PM	1:50 PM	\$605	\$1,000

High Point/Lexington

Stop	Morning Pick-up	M-TH Drop-off	FRI Drop-off	Cost One Way	Cost Roundtrip
HIGH POINT: High Point Country Club, Country Club Drive	N/A	3:20 PM	1:50 PM	\$575	N/A
LEXINGTON: Parking lot on 3 rd and Salisbury Street	7:25 AM	3:50 PM	2:20 PM	\$630	\$1,150

Greensboro/Jamestown/North High Point

Stop	Morning Pick-up	M-TH Drop-off	FRI Drop-off	Cost One Way	Cost Roundtrip
GREENSBORO: Sedgefield Country Club Utility lot, Forsyth Dr.	7:00 AM	3:50 PM	2:15 PM	\$630	\$1,150
JAMESTOWN: Whittington Hall Pool lot, Thora Drive	7:10 AM	3:40 PM	2:05 PM	\$605	\$1,100
N. HIGH POINT: Deep River Rec. Center, Skeet Club Road	7:20 AM	3:30 PM	1:55 PM	\$605	\$1,100

Occasional Afternoon Rider for MS/US Students who are registered AM riders *advance permission required, based on availability

3 Season Participant (participates in 3 sports seasons or 3 seasonal daily afterschool activities): \$150

2 Season Participant (participates in 2 sports seasons or 2 seasonal daily afterschool activities): \$240

WCDS reserves the right to charge non-registered bus riders for frequent use.

For questions please contact Amie Carey, Director of Transportation: 336.822.4011 or amie.carey@westchesterccds.org

rev 5/10/2021

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Everyone is encouraged to work together to promote the collective health and wellness of the school community. With everyone's help and by taking strategic precautions on our campus, we can minimize risk and keep everyone together learning in-person.

Attendance

The school absence policy is adjusted this year to encourage students to be cautious and stay at home when they are sick.

Health Suite

The health suite in the Wilson Student Center helps us respond to health concerns and provide care when needed. The space includes a waiting room and separate isolation area for sick individuals. It is stocked with appropriate PPE, extra masks and cleaning supplies.

Medical Task Force

A group of local physicians who are connected with Westchester continue to serve as our Medical Task Force, advising the school on steps to take in preventing the potential spread of COVID-19 on our campus.

Public Health Partnership

Our close partnership with the Davidson County Health Department will guide us in decision making should we have an exposure on campus, including if and when individuals should quarantine and/or the school should consider an operations change to distance learning.

Health Education

Jennifer Conrad, our new director of health services, will provide care and health education to students of all grade levels with a special emphasis on preventing the spread of illness. She also connects with the local health departments and families to assist with contact tracing.

School Counseling

Social and emotional support for students will be available through small group meetings (advisory) and individual counseling. Topics of focus may include transitioning back to school, social isolation, anxiety, and stressors. Academic support is also available in each division, and newly added this year is teen life coaching for grades 6-12. Division heads can provide families with more information on any of these services.



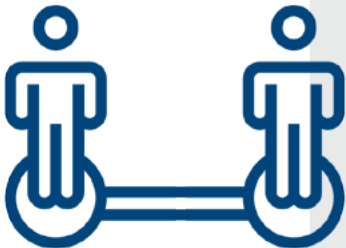
HEALTHY WILDCAT WAYS

WASH
your hands
or use hand
sanitizer.



COVER
your nose and
mouth with
a mask.

DISTANCE
yourself from others
when possible.



STAY
at home when
you are sick.



WHEN TO STAY HOME

Please help us prevent the spread of illness by staying at home if you or anyone in your household is not feeling well. Members of our school community are asked to self report COVID-like symptoms, potential exposure or a COVID-19 diagnosis.

About COVID-19

COVID-19 is mostly spread when an infected person breathes out droplets and very small particles that contain the virus. These droplets and particles can be breathed in by other people or land on their eyes, noses, or mouth. Any scenario in which people who are not fully vaccinated gather together poses a risk for COVID-19 transmission. According to the CDC, studies show that the use of multiple, layered preventions, including face coverings, physical distancing and cohorting, during the 2020-2021 school year helped limit the spread of the virus in schools.

COVID-19 Vaccination is Optional, But Very Helpful

At this time, the COVID-19 vaccine is optional, and we are asking for a vaccination record to be added in Magnus Health for students 12 and older. Achieving high levels of COVID-19 vaccination among eligible students as well as faculty, staff and household members would help greatly in safely resuming full operations. Visit the [NCDHHS website](#) for information about scheduling a vaccine appointment.

Absences Due to COVID-19 Diagnosis or Exposure

When a student must be excluded from school due to symptoms or illness, faculty will follow routine practice of working with students and families on a plan to make up any missed assignments. In instances of longer absences due to COVID-19 diagnosis or exposure, opportunities may be arranged for students to connect with their classrooms virtually, at the teacher's discretion and direction. The expectation will be a commitment to health and wellness first and that students will complete work from home as they feel well enough to do so. Parents and students should stay in communication with their teachers and Jennifer Conrad, director of health services, about their condition. We will work individually with families depending on the circumstances of the absence.



Confirmed and suspected cases of COVID-19 should be reported to Jennifer Conrad, director of health services, at jennifer.conrad@westchestercds.org. All information about suspected cases of COVID-19 is confidential.

WCDS 2021-22 COVID-19 Exclusion Policy

Individuals who are not well should not come to campus until they are symptom-free for the appropriate amount of time. Students who develop symptoms while at school will be moved to a separate isolation area until picked up. Faculty/staff will be sent home immediately.

Symptoms

Fever (100 degrees or greater), chills, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, new cough, new loss of taste or smell, muscle/body aches, headache, sore throat, diarrhea, vomiting, excessive runny nose, or congestion

- Negative COVID-19 test: Return to school when fever free and feeling well for 24 hours. Physician's note may be required.
- Diagnosis of another illness (strep, ear infection, etc.): Accounting for symptoms, students may return to school with a physician's note. Must be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.

COVID-19 Diagnosis, No Symptoms

Return to school 10 days after positive COVID-19 test, assuming no symptoms since the test.

COVID-19 Diagnosis with Symptoms

Return to school 10 days after symptoms appeared, if fever free for 48 hours without fever-reducing medication and improvement of respiratory symptoms.

COVID-19 Exposure, Not Fully Vaccinated

Return to school 10 days after last close contact if no symptoms develop and no positive test. Individuals in the same household as someone being tested or symptomatic for COVID-19 should not come to school.

International Travel

Consult with director of health services and current CDC guidelines before traveling. Negative PCR test result and quarantine may be required before returning to school.

Quarantine Not Required:

- Fully vaccinated individuals who are symptom-free do not need to quarantine.
- PK-12 students with exposure in a school setting in which both individuals were wearing a mask properly and consistently may not have to quarantine (school's discretion).

COVID-19 RESPONSE

While we have precautions in place, we also are prepared to respond and communicate in the event of COVID-19 exposures or positive cases. Our response will follow the guidance provided by the NCDHHS StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit and the CDC's information for school settings.

Communication

Communicating Positive Cases

In the event that a positive COVID-19 case is confirmed for a student, faculty or staff member who has been on campus, Jennifer Conrad, director of health services, will communicate directly with individuals who were exposed through close contact. The school will then send an email by division/group about the positive case, while maintaining confidentiality. The school also tracks the total case count by date through a chart on the COVID-19 page on the website. This information is public and is updated on school days.

Distance Learning

If needed, some or all students may have to continue their learning from home in a virtual format at some point during the year. It is our priority to maintain on-campus instruction as long as it is safe and feasible to do so, but we are prepared in the event a shift to distance learning is required.

Deciding to Shift to Distance Learning

The decision to go to hybrid or full distance learning would be determined by school leadership based on such inputs as directives from the local health department due to a COVID-19 outbreak, a statewide stay-at-home order or other unforeseen scenario. We will try to provide as much advanced notice of a change in our operations from in-person to virtual instruction as possible given the circumstances.

Guidance for Distance Learning

Faculty have outlined a [Philosophy of Digital Teaching and Learning](#) to provide guidance should there be a need for a transition to distance learning.

A shift to hybrid instruction or full virtual instruction would be different from what an individual student might do during a school absence. Students who are out sick will still primarily arrange to complete schoolwork and schedule make-ups with their teachers on an individual basis as has been the routine. Students out for a longer COVID-19-related absence may have opportunities to join their class virtually at the teacher's discretion and as the health condition of the student allows.

FAQ

Why will all students and faculty be wearing masks?

When the school year begins, masks will be required indoors for all students, faculty, staff, parents, volunteers and visitors. This is the guidance provided for schools by the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services NCStrongSchools Public Health Toolkit, the CDC's guidelines for K-12 schools, and the recommendation of the American Academy of Pediatrics. We have made this decision based on guidance from these resources, as well as the Medical Task Force that has advised the school throughout the pandemic. The requirement is universal, which will be simpler for faculty to monitor and more inclusive and supportive for those who are not able to be vaccinated at this time. Continuing mask wearing for now as one of multiple, layered prevention strategies will help us start the year with as many in our school community as possible on campus, learning in person. Consistent mask wearing by all individuals in a school setting can help limit quarantines in cases of exposure, as students who are exposed may not need to quarantine if everyone is wearing a mask properly. Masks are not required outdoors. There will be times throughout the day when students will not have to wear it, as faculty are encouraged to take their classes outdoors as much as their lesson plans and the weather allow. We will evaluate how this is going throughout the year and adjust as new guidance is provided.

Will visitors be allowed on campus?

Yes! We are looking forward to welcoming parents and guests back to campus on a more routine basis this year! Classrooms may have parent volunteers, and parent groups may choose to hold meetings in-person on campus. Visitors are required to check in at the main office upon arrival and wear a mask while indoors. Parents will be able to join their children for lunch (consult your teacher for plans), so long as you can find an outdoor space to eat together. We are asking you to enjoy your lunch outdoors because of limited seating in the dining hall due to physical distancing requirements. Athletic events are open to spectators subject to NCISAA guidelines.

Will classes be able to go on field trips?

Field trips are permissible as long as the destination allows and precautions for health and safety can be maintained, including bus transportation. Some trips may be postponed or changed out of an abundance of caution. We are researching the feasibility of taking the class trips for grades 6-12, and will share information as it becomes available.

Please Note: The plans outlined in this guide were developed given what information and guidance was available at the time of publication and are subject to change at any point during the school year.





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