



December 18, 2020

Dear Washington County PreK – 8th grade Families,

We have all been practicing social distancing, washing our hands and learning to support each other. As a district, we are committed to providing your child with the tools necessary to reach their personal and academic potential. Our goal is to provide your child with the best education possible.

Just like you; we miss the day-to-day interactions with your child. In preparation for 2021, the reality of Remote Learning will continue to be a part of our plan whether it is a choice or a district mandate. Our teachers continue to provide multiple opportunities of live Google Meets, Small Group Meetings, Recorded Sessions, and other activities to support your child with their learning at home. Please read below the expectations and guidelines beginning January 5, 2021.

We are proud and thankful for how our teachers are managing through this change by developing thoughtful lessons and activities for your children and by keeping your children connected.

We are thankful for our parents who have supported administrators and teachers during this continuous-changing school environment. This has truly been a team effort for everyone!

Please note that most children benefit from predictability and routine. To the extent that you can support them with a structured schedule, including breaks, healthy meals, and physical activity, they will weather this situation. And if you're overwhelmed, also be compassionate to yourself. Children are incredibly resilient, and there's an entire Washington County community here to support you. We will continue to keep you updated on any changes and are here to answer any questions.

Kind regards,

Washington County Department of Education Leadership

Washington County PreK – 8th grade Administrators

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2021 Full Virtual Expectations and Guidelines

1. Students in grades Kindergarten through Eighth grade will be expected to participate in live, synchronous remote instruction each class period with their teachers while attending school fully remote schedule. PreK students will work with their teachers on virtual requirements.
2. Virtual ***synchronous instruction can be defined*** as a two-way, ***real-time instruction*** between teachers and students through computers or other electronic devices. Washington County Schools has made this decision in order to increase student engagement while students are on a virtual schedule. Virtual instruction will continue when students return on January 5, 2021. All students will complete their required assignments by the due date that teacher's assign. ***All exceptions will be discussed between student, parent, teacher, and principal.***
3. Attendance will be taken each class period based on your child's attendance in the live Google Meet sessions with the teacher. If your child is unable to participate in synchronous instruction due to a hardship (technology or internet issues, young children in the home, etc.), please contact your child's teacher to develop an alternate plan. This plan must be approved by school principal. ***All students are required to attend on January 5, 2021. Teachers will provide all information needed by December 19, 2020.***
4. Hardship documentation must be completed and on file for any student who cannot participate in live synchronous remote instruction. Failure to follow this procedure may result in unexcused absences.
5. For virtual synchronous instruction, your child will be expected to login at the beginning of each class period
6. Teachers will provide at least thirty minutes of direct instruction each class period for students before releasing students to complete independent practice, but teachers may provide additional time of direct instruction. Teachers will provide time for small group instruction.

Student Expectations

1. Students are expected to log on the Google Meet ***5 minutes before scheduled time.***
2. Students are expected to log on to the Google Meet ***muted but with video on.***
3. Students are expected to ***show their face on the screen to engage with the teacher virtually.*** Students ***may use the background features provided in the Google Meet (blur, beach, fireworks, etc.) if they want to hide their background in the video.***
4. Students are expected ***to remain on the Google Meet until released*** by their teacher.
5. Students are expected to follow ***Washington County dress code.***
6. Students will be ***sitting in a seat during the Google Meet, not lying down.***
7. Students should ***be ready to engage and learn*** following the daily bell schedule.
8. Students ***will participate in class activities, discussions, and assignments***
9. ***Students are expected to follow the Student Code of Conduct and all policies and procedures outlined in the Elementary and Middle Student Handbook***

Students should follow these daily expectations throughout the school week. If your child cannot participate due to illness, doctor's appointment, etc., please follow normal attendance reporting procedures by sending doctor's excuses and/or parent notes to the attendance clerk at your child's school. Parents may use up to five parent notes during a school year. Each parent note will excuse one day of absence. If you have additional questions concerning attendance procedures or synchronous instruction, please contact your school principal for more information.