

West Iron County Public Schools

Return to School 2020-21

Parents, Students, Staff and West Iron Community:

West Iron County Public Schools will have face to face, in school learning for the 2020-2021 school year!

On August 5th, the West Iron County School Board met, discussed, and reviewed the District's Preparedness and Response Plan mandated by the State of Michigan. Your elected officials come from diverse backgrounds and beliefs, and the discussion was wide ranged and direct. In the end, the plan was voted on and passed unanimously.

The entire District plan will accompany this letter on the website. This letter will offer the highlights of the plan.

For West Iron to have a full year school experience, we are going to have to work collaboratively as a community and school family. The District is planning to provide the safest environment possible for our students and staff, but our plans only go as far as the cooperation we get from our community, parents, students, and staff. Daily wellness checks, temperature taking, and other health department recommendations are going to have to become daily habits for parents and students before coming to school. We can only be in school, and school can only stay in session, if we all work together to make this happen. The District and Board understand that some of the safeguards and changes we will have to make may be inconvenient for some. Please know the District and Board understand, but we need our students in school and in school for the entire year, and this is our path forward.

Highlights of the District Plan:

- Students will be in school Monday through Friday for in person learning
- Virtual options will be made available for families choosing not to send their child to the buildings
- Masks will be required at all times for staff and students 6-12. Masks will be required for K-5 students in common areas, such as hallways.
- Although there will not always be 6 feet of separation, we have spaced desks out to maximize distance between students. This permits us to go to school daily
- The District will cooperate with the Health Department and follow their protocols for suspected and active cases of CoVid
- The District will transport students. Masks will be required on buses. Daily disinfecting of busses will also occur. However, due to the size of the District and length of bus runs, we will not be able to social distance on the buses. To alleviate the number of riders, we will not be bussing students that live within walking distance to the school. Those affected will be identified in the Wykon Window. Please be on the lookout for this.

West Iron County Middle School and High School Highlights

- Students will have an in person learning experience with all classes still be offered
- Families will have the ability to select a total virtual option, which will be for the full semester
- The MS and HS will have one to one computing, as each student will receive a chromebook
- The MS and HS will increase to 3 lunch periods
- The Middle School will have a split lunch to reduce the numbers of students in the lunchroom. Half eating first while the other half is at recess with a switch
- Hygiene
 - Desks will be disinfected after each use
 - Increased number of hand sanitizing stations
 - Increased cleaning and disinfecting of bathrooms
 - Signage to promote good hygiene

Stambaugh Elementary School Highlights

Recess

- All students K-5 will go outdoors for recess with their grade level peers

Lunch

- Students will walk to get lunch and bring it back to the classroom to eat
- There will be an adult in the room with students

Specials

- Students will have Physical Education with Mr. Kralovec
- Students will have Music with Mrs. Carr
- Students will have Computers with Mr. Cavalieri

4th and 5th Graders

- Students will have a different teacher for math, reading, science and social studies
- Teachers will travel from room to room. Students will stay in their classrooms.

Online Options

- Students will have the opportunity to access the curriculum from home

After school daycare will be available

In closing, please know we are all in this together, with our goal being to have in person learning the entire school year. At times this may become inconvenient and frustrating, but we need to keep our eye on maintaining face to face education all year. The District and Board understand that we live in Iron County and have not been “hit” as hard as other areas. We also understand that we have worked our way through the tourist season, and have kept our numbers low. Our next test is going to be getting through the next few weeks, the start of school and Labor Day weekend. Along these lines, our Board and Administration would promote that families over the next two and a half weeks try to stay local and limit our out of town and out of state contacts as the data supports the limited number of cases in Iron County have been the result of such out of the area contacts. Again, with our goal to not only start school but to have an entire year, we ask that we all work together to take the necessary steps to make this happen.

Thank you and have a great school year.

Mr. Christopher Thomson,
Superintendent