



WEST IRON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Kevin Schmutzler
Superintendent

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Dear Wykon Families,

My name is Kevin Schmutzler, your new superintendent. I hope you've been enjoying the summer time with family and friends. It's been a busy summer for me moving to the area and planning for the upcoming school year. The first day of school is Tuesday, August 24th.

Recently, I met with our Dickinson-Iron School District Superintendents and received communication from our local health department. During this meeting we reviewed and discussed the current guidelines regarding Covid 19 and how they pertain to K-12 schools. So as long as these current guidelines and the information remain the same, it is our desire to return to the pre-pandemic school environment we were all used to. So, the 2021-22 school year for the Wykons will include:

- Encouraging eligible students and staff to get their Covid vaccination. However, the Covid vaccine is not one of the required vaccines for attending school.
- Properly worn masks are recommended, but not required for students or staff. Mask requirements on busses are still yet to be determined.
- Encourage social distancing when it is possible.
- Continue to encourage students and staff to do health screenings, and stay home when he/she is sick. If a student or staff member is diagnosed with Covid 19, we will follow the guidance of their medical professionals and our health department.
- Continue to practice proper hygiene and cleaning protocols.
- Livestream all of our games in the Charles Greenlund Gymnasium and Nelson Field (once it's installed.)

Prior to the start of school last year, schools were required to submit a Covid Learning Plan and it had to be approved by the Michigan Department of Education. Currently, this is not a requirement. If in the near future it becomes necessary, we will create one and share it with our school community once it is approved.

The safety of our students and staff remains our top priority. We feel that our plan moving forward is in line with the current CDC and MDHHS guidelines.

As mentioned above, it is our desire to return to a pre-pandemic school environment. We all believe that in-person education is best for our students, so we will not be offering a hybrid/Zoom virtual model like this past year (unless it becomes a required situation). We stand behind our teachers, and in-person instruction is better for our students than any online program.

We thank you for your support and cooperation throughout this unique time in history and education. We are all looking forward to a great 2021-22 school year. Please contact your building principal or superintendent if you have any questions or concerns.

Kevin Schmutzler, Superintendent kschmutzler@westiron.org