

# West Seneca Central Schools Community Forum

Tuesday, August 17, 2021  
West Senior HS Auditorium  
6:00 - 7:30 pm



# Forum Overview

- District Changes/Moves
- Guidance from New York State  
Department of Health and Erie County  
Department of Health
- 2021-22 Academic School Year: Key  
Focus Areas
- Frequently Asked Questions & Answers



# District Changes/Moves



## **District Offices have relocated to West Elementary...**

- Office of the Superintendent
- Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services/Directors of SpEd & PPS/Assistant Superintendent of Exceptional Education
- Business Offices
- Human Resources/Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Operations

## **Educational Center houses the...**

- Curricular Directors & Assistant Superintendent of Educational Operations
- Technology Integrators
- Academies and CTE Office
- Athletics Office
- West Seneca Teacher Center

## **Winchester-Potters Elementary**

- Winchester has relocated to Potters Road Elementary



# Guidance from New York State Department of Health & Erie County Department of Health



- Awaiting full guidance from the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) regarding any safety protocols for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Alignment with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
- Priority on full return of students
- Fluid situation...prepare for potential shifts to operations



## Key Focus Areas



### **Accelerating Learning:**

- District-wide focus on literacy across all grades/disciplines
- Lowering class sizes at the elementary level
- Adding instructional support positions and structures; reading teachers, academic intervention service blocks at all levels, and learning labs at the middle schools
- Increasing support with technology integration; tech integrators at all three levels





## Key Focus Areas (con't.)

### Enrollment & Attendance:

- **GOAL:** To have 100% of students make a full return to in-person learning.
- Provide remote learning option for those students who are immunocompromised.
- Strive for student connections
- Increase opportunities for student engagement; clubs, sports, extra-curricular activities



## Key Focus Areas (con't.)



### Health & Safety:

- Maintain 3 feet of social distance in classrooms to the extent possible
- Use other mitigating strategies when this distance cannot be maintained, e.g. face masks
- Health Screenings for students and staff
- Collaboration with the Erie County Department of Health for testing/vaccination clinics



## Key Focus Areas (con't.)



### **Social and Emotional Supports:**

- Addition of pupil personnel support services (District Social Worker, School Psychologist, & ***Behavioral Social Emotional Support Team -BESST*** Team)
- Training for Staff: UB Trauma-Informed Educational Practices
- Addition of two School Resource Officers in schools
- Training in Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education practices for all





## Key Focus Areas (con't.)



### **Parent/Guardian Interaction/Engagement:**

- Increased opportunities for engagement; open houses, orientations, supply drop-off, etc.
- Resume with school and community events; sporting events, concerts, theatrical performances, etc.
- Resume on campus, outdoor PTA/PTO events



# Frequently Asked Questions



**Do we plan on a full return at three feet, or are we going to use layering strategies when we can't maintain three feet?**

**What layering/mitigation strategies are we going to use?**



We are planning for a full return at three feet to the extent possible (i.e. we will continue to maximize distance). Based on the most current CDC guidance, it appears as though masks will be the primary mitigation strategy in at least some situations. We are also exploring COVID-19 surveillance testing and proximal testing programs being offered by the Erie County Department of Health as further means of mitigation.

# Frequently Asked Questions



**How are we going to use ventilation?**

**Are windows going to remain open?**

We will continue to keep our air handlers open 100% while buildings are occupied. Windows will remain open to the extent practicable. Additionally, we will continue to utilize air purifiers strategically throughout the district.



# Frequently Asked Questions



**What is the policy or plan for face mask breaks?**



We are still awaiting guidance from the ECDOH regarding this issue. In situations where masks are worn, we will operate in a similar manner to last year - regular mask breaks will occur throughout the course of the school day and will depend upon individual teacher/school schedules. Students will be able to take mask breaks when outdoors. Individual student needs will be considered.

# Frequently Asked Questions



## **Are hallway passing times going to be staggered?**



There will not be a need to stagger passing times. The county contract traces if people are within 6 feet of each other for 10 or more minutes. Our transition time at all buildings is less than 10 minutes. Staff will continue to monitor hallways during transitions and encourage students to move to their classes in a timely manner.

## Frequently Asked Questions



**What is the plan for large congregations of students such as lunch, gym, chorus and band classes?**



This will depend upon Erie County Department of Health regulations but we will physically distance students to the extent possible, regardless. We will continue to maximize outdoor space and utilize indoor locations, such as auditoriums and multi-purpose rooms, that allow for increased social distancing.

# Frequently Asked Questions



**If there is an outbreak, what will our school district do?**

**Classroom outbreak vs. increased community spread?**



We will follow the Erie County Department of Health's guidance for any closures. There are a number of scenarios to consider such as:

- Entire district or entire building shuts down - shift to a fully remote model.
- Entire elementary classroom quarantine - shift to fully remote model.
- Entire middle or high school classroom quarantine - The teacher may teach that class fully remotely during the scheduled period of time.

## Frequently Asked Questions



**If schools are required to test for COVID, who will be responsible for the testing?**

We will be working with the Erie County Department of Health for testing. We are still in the process of working with Erie County to determine who will be conducting the testing. Individuals would voluntarily consent to testing and we would conduct it routinely (e.g. bi-weekly, once per month, etc.).







## Frequently Asked Questions

**Will students be required to have proof of vaccination?**

At this time, we are not requiring proof of vaccination unless it is a requirement from the New York State Department of Health/Erie County Department of Health. However, please consider informing your school nurse if your child has been vaccinated.



# Frequently Asked Questions



**Will the District be able to resume holding concerts and sporting events?**

Yes. We will allow parents/guardians to be present for these events to the extent allowable through the Erie County Department of Health regulations.

**Will parents be allowed to attend?**



# Frequently Asked Questions



**What protocols will be in place for students on the school bus?**

Students will have assigned seats to assist with contact tracing. Family members will sit together. In addition, windows will be open to the extent possible and masking may be required.





# Frequently Asked Questions

## Will parents need to conduct Health Screening?

Yes. The district plans to continue weekly reminders for parents to screen their children daily before sending them to school. This is a best practice as students should never be sent to school if not well and exhibiting cold or flu-like symptoms.

**COVID-19 Screening for Parents**  
Every morning before you send your child to school please check the following:

- 1 Your student does NOT have a fever greater than 100.4 degrees OR lower if your child is not feeling well.
- 2 Have you recently experienced any new signs of illness such as:
  - LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL
  - COUGHING OR PHLEGGY NOSE
  - FEVER TILLY
  - SORE THROAT
  - SHORTNESS OF BREATH OR DIFFICULTY BREATHING
  - DIARRHEA
  - HHEADACHE
  - NAUSEA OR VOMITING
  - MUSCLE PAIN AND FATIGUE
  - CHILLS
  - NEW LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL
- 3 Were you in close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with anyone confirmed with COVID-19 within the last two weeks?

If the answer is YES to any of the questions, DO NOT send your student to school. Instead, begin quarantine of your child and contact your healthcare provider and Principal. Strongly consider COVID-19 testing.

© 2020 WSCS

# Frequently Asked Questions



**Will the District offer athletics/school sports and clubs/activities?**

Yes. The district plans to offer school sports and has already begun planning and preparation for the 2021-22 school year. We also plan to offer other extracurricular activities such as clubs for our students.



# Frequently Asked Questions



## What will student schedules look like if we have to be in an elementary hybrid model of instruction?

(West Side and East Side have slight difference due to arrival and dismissal times)

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
8:30-8:50	Arrival				
8:50-2:30	Instruction (CORE Academics & Special Areas)				
2:35-3:30	Dismissal/Office Hours				
8:30-3:30	Intervention Services and IEP Services (including, but not limited to reading, AIS, speech, OT/PT, counseling)				



## Frequently Asked Questions

**What will student schedules look like if we have to be in an elementary hybrid model of instruction?**

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS SCHEDULE IS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW BASED ON DISCUSSION AT THE  
8/17/21 FORUM**

**In-Person Student Attendance Schedule Sample: Cohort A & Cohort B**

*\*On days opposite of in-person days, students will be engaged in asynchronous (not-live) work given from the classroom teacher.*

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Week 1	Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort B	Cohort B
Week 2	Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort B	Cohort B	Cohort B
Week 3	Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort B	Cohort B
Week 4	Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort B	Cohort B	Cohort B



# Frequently Asked Questions

## What will student schedules look like if we have to be in a middle school hybrid model of instruction?

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:50-8:20	Homeroom				
8:23-9:00	Period 1				
9:03-9:40	Period 2				
9:43-10:20	Period 3				
*10:23-12:50 (Lunch crossover) <b>Lunch Times:</b> <b>Teams 6A/7C</b> 10:23-10:50 <b>Teams 7A/8C</b> 11:03-11:30 <b>Teams 6B/8A</b> 11:43-12:10 <b>Teams 7 B/8B</b> 12:23-12:50	Period 4A (10:23-11:00)				
	Period 4B (10:53-11:30)				
	Period 5A (11:03-11:40)				
	Period 5B (11:33-12:10)				
	Period 6A (11:43-12:20)				
	Period 6B (12:13-12:50)				
12:53-1:30	Period 7				
1:33-2:10	Period 8				
2:15-3:00	Office Hours				





## Frequently Asked Questions

**What will student schedules look like if we have to be in a middle school hybrid model of instruction?**

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS SCHEDULE IS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW BASED ON DISCUSSION AT THE  
8/17/21 FORUM**

**In-Person Student Attendance Schedule Sample: Cohort A & Cohort B**

*\*On days opposite of in-person days, students will be engaged in asynchronous (not-live) work given from the classroom teacher.*

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Week 1	Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort B	Cohort B
Week 2	Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort B	Cohort B	Cohort B
Week 3	Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort B	Cohort B
Week 4	Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort B	Cohort B	Cohort B



## Frequently Asked Questions

What will student schedules look like if we have to be in a high school hybrid model of instruction?

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:30-8:40	Block 1				
8:40-8:45	TV News				
8:49-9:59	Block 2				
*10:03-11:53 (Lunch Crossover)	Block 3				
10:03-10:33	A Lunch				
10:42-11:12	B Lunch				
11:21-11:53	C Lunch				
11:57-1:07	Block 4				
1:15-2:35	Office Hours				



## Frequently Asked Questions

**What will student schedules look like if we have to be in a high school hybrid model of instruction?**

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS SCHEDULE IS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW BASED ON DISCUSSION AT THE  
8/17/21 FORUM**

**In-Person Student Attendance Schedule Sample: Cohort A & Cohort B**

*\*On days opposite of in-person days, students will be engaged in asynchronous (not-live) work given from the classroom teacher.*

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Week 1	Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort B	Cohort B
Week 2	Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort B	Cohort B	Cohort B
Week 3	Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort B	Cohort B
Week 4	Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort B	Cohort B	Cohort B

# Frequently Asked Questions



**What will student schedules look like if we have to be in an elementary fully remote model of instruction?**

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
8:30-9:00	Virtual Office Hours				
9:00-2:00	Instruction (CORE Academics & Special Areas)				
2:00-3:30	Virtual Office Hours				
8:30-3:30	Intervention Services and IEP Services (including, but not limited to reading, AIS, speech, OT/PT, counseling)				

# Frequently Asked Questions



**What will student schedules look like if we have to be in a middle school fully remote model of instruction?**

	<b>Monday (Day 1)</b>	<b>Tuesday (Day 2)</b>	<b>Wednesday (Day 3)</b>	<b>Thursday (Day 4)</b>	<b>Friday (Day 1)</b>
9:00-10:00	Period 1	Period 5	Period 1	Period 5	Period 1
10:05-11:05	Period 2	Period 6	Period 2	Period 6	Period 2
11:05-11:35	LUNCH				
11:35-12:35	Period 3	Period 7	Period 3	Period 7	Period 3
12:40-1:40	Period 4	Period 8	Period 4	Period 8	Period 4
1:40-3:00	Virtual Office Hours				

**NOTE:** There is a 4 day rotation, and the 8 periods have been divided over the course of two days, and then repeated through a continuous cycle.



## Frequently Asked Questions

**What will student schedules look like if we have to be in a high school fully remote model of instruction?**

	<b>Monday (Day 1)</b>	<b>Tuesday (Day 2)</b>	<b>Wednesday (Day 3)</b>	<b>Thursday (Day 4)</b>	<b>Friday (Day 1)</b>
7:30-8:55	Virtual Office Hours				
9:00-10:00	Block 1				
10:05-11:05	Block 2				
11:05-11:35	LUNCH				
11:35-12:35	Block 3				
12:40-1:40	Block 4				
1:45-2:35	Virtual Office Hours				

**NOTE:** There is a 4 day rotation which is repeated through a continuous cycle.



## Frequently Asked Questions

**When will parents know student assignments and schedules as well as school start and dismissal times?**

Individual buildings will be sending out written communications to students and families as to the availability of this information. Parents should feel free to reach out to building principals and/or counselors for any assistance they may need.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 AM ADVISORY	8:00 AM ADVISORY	8:00 AM ADVISORY	8:00 AM ADVISORY	8:00 AM ADVISORY
8:00 AM ADVISORY	8:00 AM ADVISORY	8:00 AM ADVISORY	8:00 AM ADVISORY	8:00 AM ADVISORY
8:00 AM ADVISORY	8:00 AM ADVISORY	8:00 AM ADVISORY	8:00 AM ADVISORY	8:00 AM ADVISORY

Elementary Classroom Schedule Includes 1000-1100 AM, 1100-1200 PM & 1200-1300 PM

# Frequently Asked Questions



**When will parents know student bus routes and stops/times?**

The Transportation Department will send out correspondence in the coming weeks regarding bus number, bus stop, and pick-up and drop-off times.





## Frequently Asked Questions



**What if my student left the District last year and wants to return?**

You should contact your home school building to make an appointment to re-register your child. Be sure to communicate the most up to date contact information to ensure smooth transition for re-entry. Visit the District website and click the registration tab for more specific information.



# Frequently Asked Questions



**What steps will the district take to help students re-adjust to in-person learning and help them to deal with issues such as anxiety?**



Our primary focus for the start of the school year will be on building relationships with our students and helping them acclimate to being back in school on a full-time basis. Below are some additional measures we have taken to help facilitate a positive return for our students...

- Addition of a district-wide social worker whose primary focus will be supporting students struggling to participate in school
- Addition of a school psychologist thus allowing for each school to have a dedicated psychologist
- Addition of an intensive, district-wide behavioral support team consisting of a psychologist and social worker
- Continuation of partnership with the University at Buffalo's Trauma Informed Educational Practices Program

## Frequently Asked Questions



**In the event that masks are required, will students be allowed to remove them while they are at their desks? Will older students who are more likely to be vaccinated have more flexibility?**



This will depend upon guidance issued by the Erie County Health Department. In the event that masks are mandated it would seem likely that masks would need to be worn while students are at their desks except during designated mask breaks. It is difficult to speculate regarding the degree to which older students will have additional flexibility but the CDC makes a point of recommending masking for all, regardless of vaccination status.

# Frequently Asked Questions



**Will students be able to use lockers?**

Yes. Students will be able to use lockers.



# Frequently Asked Questions



## What is the criteria for students to be eligible for fully remote instruction?



The August 2021 guidance document released by the NYS Education Department states...*"So long as allowed by public health officials, schools should be open for in-person teaching and learning, and students should be in school."*

The guidance further states...*"While the Department will not require schools that are open for full-time, in-person instruction to provide on-line or remote instruction, districts may work with students and families to offer remote options if it is deemed to be in the best educational interest of the student."*

We believe that in-person learning is the most optimal form of instruction for students. That being said, we are partnering with Erie 1 BOCES to offer remote instruction for some students. In order to be eligible for fully remote instruction, a student must have a note from a doctor indicating that the student has a compromised immune system and that participation in a typical, in-person educational program would be a danger to him or her.

Questions?



