

LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

August 2020

Elementary:

As we prepare to open schools, we were given the task of identifying a safe learning environment that allowed our young learners in grades K-5 to move fluidly between three forms of learning:

1. In-person learning
2. Hybrid learning
3. Distance learning

We were also tasked with ensuring our Safe Learning Model has the following:

- Daily opportunity to attend school
- Developmental levels of support for young learners
- Classroom environment that allows for social distancing
- Limited cross contamination to the best of our abilities
- Design for social interaction and movement for young learners
- Ability to transition from a least restrictive (in-person) learning environment to a highly restrictive (distance learning) environment in responding to COVID-19
- Design a team approach to delivering instruction to our young learners from least restrictive to highly restrictive

Based on the Safe Learning Plan for 2020-21 and [COVID-19 cases in Carver County](#), at the K-5 level we will transition between the three forms of learning In-Person, Hybrid, and Distance Learning. Each of the three forms of learning will be used in response to various conditions created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the K-5 Elementary level parents/guardians have 2 choices:

1. Waconia Elementary Schools Learning Pod Model which is designed to be fluid and allow for routines and consistency for our young learners. K-5 will attend their elementary school locations: Bayview, Laketown, Southview. K - 5 will have every day (Monday - Friday) in-person learning in small groups we call Learning Pods (students will stay within their learning pods during the school day using social distancing and safety and cleaning protocols). A learning pod is a community of learners consisting of two classrooms of students split into three learning spaces. Instruction, support, and supervision throughout the school day for each learning pod will be delivered by two licensed elementary teachers, and one educational assistant identified as a Learning Coach. The student school day is adjusted to a start time of 8:30am with dismissal at 2:30pm
2. Waconia Elementary Schools Online Model (100% On-line Only)
Online Teachers will be dedicated to teaching students who opt for 100% online learning. In an effort to best serve students choosing the Waconia Elementary Online option, staff will be dedicated solely to providing services in this program. Live instruction with interactive feedback will be employed whenever possible. Learning will be robust and consistent to the learning happening in school. Students choosing online can expect to engage in interesting, rigorous learning with timely feedback and assistance from teachers. Students will be able to personalize work time to fit individual

needs. Support services (Special Education, 504 supports, EL) will be available to students in this program in a distance format.

Meetings continue to be held throughout the next few weeks to cement detailed planning in delivering a safe, equitable and engaging learning model for all K-5 students.

As of August 6, 2020 Elementary Enrollment:

5%: Not attending

10%: Waconia Elementary Online Learning Model

85%: Attending Waconia Elementary Learning Pod Model

Middle School:

The news providing guidelines for returning to school has launched many of us into overdrive at WMS.

Principals and directors have been consumed by developing, adjusting, and re-designing schedules based on new hybrid learning plans. In a typical year, students' schedules would have been available Monday and students would be at the County Fair checking to see who else is in their classes. Releasing schedules have been delayed and we hope to have them completed, reviewed, and shared with families next week. Now that students know they will most likely be on-site in a hybrid model they are itching to know who their teachers are and if there are friends in their classes-- vital information for middle school students.

There have been design teams meeting this week to explore options and possibilities with the 6th-grade model mirroring the K-5 model and the 7th and 8th-grade A/B model. We will be able to safely have 6th-grade students on-site all day every day from 8:05-3:05. There are many benefits of having 6th-grade students on-site daily but a major driving factor is the extreme academic value to the students in a transitional year. So far we have enjoyed two 3-hour design sessions and the checkbook will allow a final 3-hour design session with teachers on Monday. There is a lot to consider and it is not possible to cover every detail. The teams have made excellent progress and plans will be completed well before students walk through the doors. I know the thought of students walking through the doors causes mixed emotions for staff students and families, but the administrative team is ecstatic for life and energy to return to our building.

Early numbers show about 93% of WMS students would elect to participate in our Hybrid model. We expect that number may rise as we release news that 6th grade will be every day.

High School:

We have been consumed with creating a hybrid model for the start of the 2020-21 school year. We have been focusing our time and attention on building a model that will allow us to move quickly and efficiently between our hybrid and distance learning approaches. Time has been spent on building on our work in the area of distance learning, and raising expectations for student learning and engagement. We are addressing some of the logistics of delivering instruction to students face to face and virtually at the same time, but our team has been focusing on finding ways to keep students engaged and motivated. Our greater challenge is finding ways to ease the concerns and uncertainties created by the Covid virus. We're committed to finding ways to address the safety concerns but know we aren't able to control everything.

As of Wednesday, over 90% of our high school students are planning to participate in the hybrid learning model we're working on. Approximately 8% of students have chosen to start the year in a distance learning model and a handful of students have chosen to enroll in other school programs. As of today, the incoming 9th grade class is the largest in school history as their enrollment sits at 368 students.

Activities:

The Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Board of Directors approved moving forward as scheduled on August 17th with four Fall sports (Boys and Girls Cross Country, Boys and Girls Soccer, Girls Swimming and Diving and Girls Tennis) with limitations. The MSHSL Board of Directors also approved moving Football and Volleyball to a modified spring season (dates TBD with limited overlap of traditional Spring Sports).

MSHSL Fall athletics that were approved for play will have reductions to the total number of games and the length of season. The directive demonstrates a 30% reduction in the total number of events and a 20% reduction in the number of weeks to the regular & postseason. Competitions and travel will also be limited to conference/section and "local" schedules only and participation in scrimmages, tournaments and invitationals is prohibited. Culminating Section and State events are still TBD, with more information to come. Other general modifications included: safety recommendations for practice and play, guidelines for crowd limitations and transportation.

Online Athletics Registration:

Our Waconia Wildcat fall registration system opened for **the following sports only** on Thursday morning, August 6th

Boys' and Girls' Cross Country – 9th-12th grade only

- All returning Cross Country Senior student athletes and 11th-9th grade students are eligible to register. Program roster will be limited to 30 male and 30 female participants total. Rosters will be determined based on a try-out process.

Boys' and Girls' Soccer – 9th-12th grade only

- Student athletes in 9th-12th grade are eligible to register. The Varsity, JV and C squad rosters will be determined based on a try-out process.

Girls' Swim and Dive – 8th-12th grade only

- Student athletes in 8th-12th grade are eligible to register. The Varsity and JV rosters will be determined based on a try-out process.

Girls' Tennis – 9th-12th grade only

- Student athletes in 9th-12th grade are eligible to register. The Varsity and JV rosters will be determined based on a try-out process.

** Please note that while districts are operating in an in-person or hybrid learning model, students who opt into a full time distance learning model will maintain their eligibility to participate in Waconia Wildcat athletics and activities programs.

Sports Qualifying Physicals:

Student-athletes participating in a school-sponsored athletic program must have an updated sports qualifying physical every three years. Due to the demand on clinics during the COVID19 pandemic, the MSHSL Board of Directors approved an extension of the expiration date, thus all current physicals on file with the Waconia

athletics department will extend for one additional year, essentially a four-year clearance for the 2020-2021 school year.

Status of Middle School Sports, Activities, Clubs & other non-MSHSL organizations:

Waconia Middle School team sports of Volleyball and Football scheduled for the 2020 Fall season have been cancelled. Additionally, 7th and 8th grade students' participation in cross country running and 7th grade Girls' Swimming has also been cancelled due to limits on roster size. Other opportunities that can be offered for WMS students' are under consideration.

A decision about Fine Arts, Activities, Student Clubs & other non-MSHSL organizations will be made soon by District 110 administrators and communicated with our school community.

Crowd Size Limitations

As of today, the total number of spectators allowed at an outdoor event will not exceed the recommendations of the Minnesota Department of Health. (25% capacity up to 250 people, inclusive of event participants/staff). Spectators will not be allowed indoors (Girls Swim & Dive).

Transportation

Waconia High School plans to provide team transportation to away events. We will follow MDH guidelines in terms of how many athletes will be allowed on a bus at a time. (50% capacity during hybrid learning, 100% capacity during full in-person learning). Masks will be required when traveling to events on a district school bus.

Our department will be working collaboratively with coaches, directors and district administration over the next couple weeks to make necessary game schedule adjustments, along with creating plans and protocols that safely support our student learners and coaching staff through their engagement in fall athletics and activities participation. We appreciate and thank you for your support, patience and flexibility during these unique times.

Community Ed:

Community Ed is working on our back to school plan in regards to preschool, Kids' Co and our youth recreation programs. Our Preschool program has sent out a survey to see who is still planning on coming to preschool in the fall. We have gotten a good response and a lot of families have said they were coming back.

Kids' Company is also working on how many kids will need care before and after school. Along with figuring out what spaces we can use and still being able to follow all of the health guidelines.

Our recreation program is planning on offering our fall sports. Volleyball, football and soccer. We are working on making some modifications on how we normally have done things. We are working very hard on how to plan a great program but still following all of the health and safety guidelines.

Human Resources:

Our new teachers will get a jump start on the new school year during our "virtual" new faculty orientation, which will be held on August 18-19. Training sessions will be provided on the topics of technology, student activities, teaching license renewal and recertification, teacher evaluation, probationary status, and the D110 instructional framework and resources. New teachers will also have the opportunity to virtually connect with their mentor teachers and meet with their principals and/or department directors and other new members of their building's faculty. Our tradition of having new teachers lunch with our school board members will sadly be sidelined this year, but we hope that fun event will return next year.

Student Services:

Since all students with disabilities are regular education students first, special education administration and staff have been working closely with building level administrators and regular education staff in the planning process. Special education has had representatives on all subcommittees and design groups. This collaboration with regular education is appreciated, and essential to setting students up for success. In addition, special education staff have met virtually to provide input, feedback, and complete design work on special education specific programming and services. The District's center based programming staff has made significant progress in determining how they will serve students, however these programs also have the most details to get figured out prior to school starting.

Teaching & Learning:

Teaching and Learning has been working in close partnership with building leadership teams on their reopening schedules and logistical plans. We are now preparing for phase 2, which is to provide guidance on instructional models for each scenario. This is extremely complex work as teachers need to be prepared to pivot between scenarios throughout the school year.

We are also working collaboratively with the technology department to provide as much instructional support as possible via digital learning platforms, software, and subscription-based resources. I am grateful for the support of principals, directors, and managers in this challenging work. It is a productive struggle.

We also continue to move forward with two strategic initiatives for the 2020-2021 school year: 1) Professional Growth, Reflection, and Evaluation Model and 2) Cultural Competence Cohort. Professional Development training for both of these cohorts will occur in the next few weeks.

Superintendent:

Planning of the Fall of 2020

The planning for the 2020-21 school year has been an incredible undertaking for our ONE10 leadership and staff. We realize there is a lot of angst, wonder and excitement about what the school model will look like this year. This will be a year like no other. It is taking an incredible ONE10 team effort to make this year be the best it can be. There are a lot of questions and there is anxiety thinking about coming back to school. We continue to do our best to answer your questions and develop the safest environment possible. We are working with our staff that have concerns of underlying medical conditions and returning to onsite work. Even though there are a lot of unknowns and concerns, our staff is continuing to maintain the enthusiasm we all have for our students and our work.

ISD ONE10 continues to [keep staff and parents informed of our progress with weekly updates](#). I have created another video to summarize some of the information from this week. These weekly videos are longer than my normal videos but the information is essential.

[Superintendent Devine Video Message 8/7/20](#)

The health and safety of all our students and employees are at the forefront of all our planning. We realize there is a lot of anxiety and stress over what school may look like at ONE10. I can assure you, we are doing

everything we can within the expectations from the state to deliver a model that will meet our safety concerns and continue our high standards of academics we have come to expect.

Last week I sent out the framework to the Hybrid Model of education we plan to deliver at ONE10. We have since produced an easier to read document, but, there is one major change to last week's framework....the 6th grade team has developed a way to offer in person classes to all our 6th grade students 5 days a week. More information to follow in the upcoming weeks. A BIG Thanks to our 6th grade staff for making this work!!

As protocols become more defined and are ready to be shared, we will be updating you and will be placing them on the website. Here is an overview of some of the protocols you can expect.

[ISD110 Back-to-School Overview](#)

We have posted our current back-to-school planning results to date on our website. We have designated a Question and Answer location on our website to help clarify the common questions we are hearing. We are asking those with questions to submit a question to: covidquestions@isd110.org or 952-442-0611 and we will post answers on our website.

We are also organizing two Virtual Town Hall Meetings. Details of how to join the meetings will be shared next Tuesday. The virtual meetings will be held:

Thursday, August 13 from 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Monday, August 17 from 7:00pm - 8:00pm

We are asking our parents and staff for their continued support and patience as we work through this planning process. We know there are a lot of questions and uncertainties and we will continue to address them as soon as we have answers.

One of the changes that we are asking the school board to approve at this Monday's school board meeting is a modification to the calendar for the school year. In order to provide the planning time needed to be ready for this Hybrid Model of education, we are recommending to start the school year with students in grades 1-12 on September 8th. Kindergarten would start on September 10th. This planning time is vital for us to deliver a high quality product and implement all the safety protocols needed.

Providing planning time is so crucial because of all that will be expected for staff to accomplish. Knowing that the daily lessons you design will need to be delivered to three student audiences (in-person, the A/B student at home and the distance learner) will take a new way of planning. We will work together to provide the support needed to make this happen. We know the ONE10 Distance Learning model of education will have a much more enhanced and robust expectations as compared to last spring. Students will be receiving the same curriculum and lesson concepts as students who are in-person.

All students at ONE10 will have the same curriculum, attendance, grading and engagement expectations no matter the method they choose to attend school. Distance Learning students will be expected to follow a daily virtual schedule of interacting with teachers and other students.

We are building something that has never been built before. We know that our plan won't be perfect, yet our commitment to creating the best it can be and making adjustments along the way will lead us to a plan that will match our high standards. Support and trust in ONE10 is appreciated.

Our plan is to deliver an exceptional and safe educational environment for our ONE10 students. We have a great staff, great students and great parents who will work together through this journey to excellence during a pandemic. We are all part of this ONE10 family and together we will take care of each other.

We want to give a Big Thanks to our staff for all they are doing to provide an excellent school option for our students during this pandemic...their work is very much Appreciated!!!

We ARE ONE10!!!!

For those who may have missed last week's back-to-school planning message

[Click here for July 31 Message](#)

Operating Levy Question to be on the Fall Ballot

With the passing of the resolution at Monday's School Board meeting ISD ONE10 will be placing an Operating Levy question on the November 3 ballot. This is the result of many detailed and thorough discussions at the school board level. This decision does not come easy, but due to our current financial situation we know that we want to give our voters the power to choose the fate of our school district. The \$410 per student increase to our operating levy will give us the finances needed to get out of SOD and it will allow us to avoid over one million dollars in staff reductions moving forward. More information about the specifics of this operating levy will be shared with the public in September and October.

**Continue having an Incredible Summer!
WE Are ONE10!!**