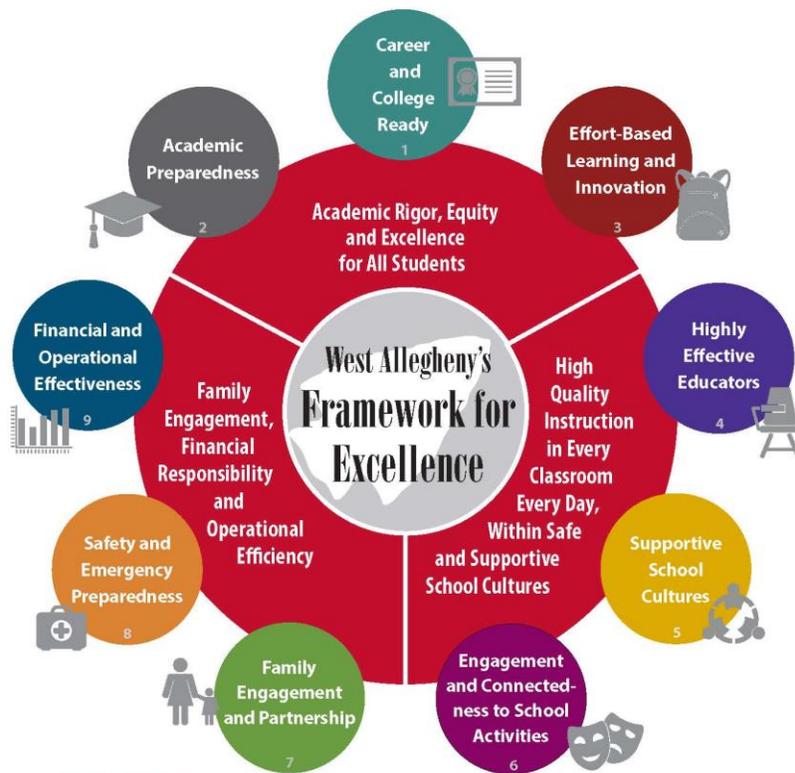




WEST ALLEGHENY SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE LEARNING PLAN 2020-2021



A Tradition of Excellence... A Vision for Tomorrow

West Allegheny School District
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Imperial, PA 15126
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Educational Delivery Options for West Allegheny Students and Families

Based on requirements from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the West Allegheny School District submitted a Health & Safety Plan that outlines guidelines for the reopening of our schools. Below is an overview that shows how the District will make decisions regarding educational delivery options based on additional guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Allegheny County Health Department, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. *It is important to note that the West Allegheny School District Superintendent will have the authority to change in-person instruction based on the health and wellness of the students and staff in each building.*

Process to Reopen Pennsylvania Guidelines (Pennsylvania Department of Education)		
Allegheny County Green Phase	Allegheny County Yellow Phase	Allegheny County Red Phase
While this phase will facilitate a return to a “new normal,” it will be equally important to continue to monitor public health indicators and adjust orders and restrictions as necessary to ensure the spread of disease remains at a minimum.	As regions or counties move into the yellow phase, some restrictions on work and social interaction will ease, while others, such as closures of schools, gyms, and other indoor recreation centers, hair and nail salons, as well as limitations around large gatherings remain.	The red phase has the sole purpose of minimizing the spread of COVID-19 through strict social distancing, non-life sustaining business, school closures, and building safety protocols.
Schools subject to CDC and commonwealth guidance.	Schools may provide in-person instruction with the Department of Education guidance.	Schools (for in-person instruction) are closed.
Corresponding West Allegheny School District Educational Delivery Options		
In-Person Instruction (K-12) Hybrid Learning (9-12)	In-Person Blended A/B Learning (K-12) If required to decrease occupancy, WASD is prepared to shift to a blended learning model with alternating schedules allowing half of the student body to attend at one time. Hybrid Learning (9-12)	Remote Learning 2.0 (K-12) All students would be working remotely from home and the WASD Remote Learning Plan 2.0 would be used.
Synchronous Online Learning (K-8) and West Allegheny Virtual Academy (K-12) will be available as options in all phases of reopening.		

This plan will detail the Synchronous Online Learning model of educational delivery.



Synchronous Online Learning



Overview

In synchronous online learning, an educational delivery model offered during the 2020-2021 school year, students in grades K-8 will remain home and utilize a district issued laptop to log in and participate in daily, real-time, instruction with West Allegheny assigned teachers. Teachers will utilize the same grade level standards, district curriculum, and supplemental programs used within the schools, however, modifications will be made to fit an online learning environment. Students will be provided all instructional resources afforded to in-person students such as textbooks, software licenses, etc. Teachers will provide instruction and academic support for the core academic subjects including English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies as well as in the Related Arts. In addition to live instruction, students will be given assignments that must be completed offline, asynchronously, and submitted to the teachers for grading. Students are expected to put forth the time and effort in class participation (synchronously) and assignment completion (asynchronously) equitable to what they would engage in during a traditional in-person instructional day.

- **Elementary School: 6 hours per day total**
- **Middle School: 5 hours and 51 minutes**

Family Commitment

In selecting to participate in synchronous online learning, families should be prepared to support their children's active participation in all online learning activities. The level of support will vary based on each learner and the developmental level of each learner. It must be ensured that all students have adequate space, materials, and technology access for their daily online instruction, requesting teacher assistance as needed. Families will need to follow an established daily learning schedule and must work with school staff to arrange for their children to participate in any state mandated educational assessments or activities. Families choosing to participate in synchronous online learning are asked to commit to this model for a minimum of the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year (August 25 – January 15). The district will work with families on a case-by-case basis when adjustments to educational delivery selections are needed to ensure student success.

Class/Teacher Assignments

Students participating in synchronous online learning will be served by high qualified, dedicated online WA teachers. Students will be grouped into grade level specific cohorts for their classes with other students from within the district. Student schedules for online instruction and teacher assignments will be finalized and communicated the week of **August 17**, as family choice survey forms are collected and processed, allowing schools to assign students to specific classes. Students online will engage with one another in the form of an online class, separate from their in-person peers. Paraprofessionals may act as an additional instructional support for some students participating in synchronous online learning, however, they will not replace the teacher who is assigned to provide daily instruction.



Attendance

Attendance is required and is an extremely important aspect of participating in online synchronous learning. Student attendance will be monitored as students log on to Canvas daily during their required class times. In addition, teachers will monitor students who are not logging in and/or are not completing work on a weekly basis. Students who fail to complete work will be referred to the counselor on a weekly basis. Counselors will work with families and school-based support teams to help develop support plans for students.

Instructional Materials

On August 20, schools will host instructional material and device pick up for families participating in synchronous online learning. Families will be able to pick up a district issued laptop per student and any of the necessary textbooks and workbooks that will support learning within the district curriculum. To support learning in the home, families are still encouraged to purchase the grade level appropriate school supplies listed on the district website as these supplies will support student work completion as they would in school. Additional details regarding material pick-up will be provided by school principals. We will also be hosting a virtual orientation for our synchronous online learners on Friday, August 21. Zoom links will be forthcoming for enrolled families.

Instruction

Students will receive a structured daily schedule with all required synchronous class times scheduled within traditional school hours utilizing the same six-day rotation that occurs in schools. For grades K-5 classes will occur between the hours of 8:30 am and 3:20 pm. For grades 6-8 classes will occur between 7:35 am and 2:35 pm.

Synchronous instruction on the tables below indicate the timeframe students are expected to participate in live instruction with their teachers. Asynchronous worktime on the tables below indicate the timeframe students are expected to work on teacher assigned tasks independently. Student schedules will account for the following minimum synchronous/asynchronous timeframes per content area:

K-5	Synchronous Instruction	Asynchronous Worktime
ELA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40-60 minutes per day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40-60 minutes per day
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40-60 minutes per day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40-60 minutes per day
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80 minutes per 6-day rotation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80 minutes per 6-day rotation
Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 minutes per 6-day rotation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 minutes per 6-day rotation
Related Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 minutes five out of the six days per rotation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 minutes one out of the six days per rotation



6-8	Synchronous Instruction	Asynchronous Worktime
ELA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 minutes per day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 minutes per day
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 minutes per day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 minutes per day
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 minutes per day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable as all instruction is provided synchronously
Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 minutes per day 	
Related Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable as all instruction is provided asynchronously 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80 minutes per day (WAVA)

While students will be provided schedules for their synchronous classes, it is highly recommended that families establish set daily schedules that also account for the time in which students will complete their assignments, have lunch, take physical activity breaks, and engage with the asynchronous assignments for their other courses. Below are **sample student schedules** of what a schedule for a typical school day may look like for the respective grade levels. Please note the actual content provided each period will vary by specific grade. The shaded cells represent periods in which the students would be required to be online:

Elementary Schedule (1-2) (8:30-3:20)			Elementary Schedule (3-5) (8:30-3:20)			Middle School Schedule (6-8) (7:30-2:35)	
Period 1 8:40-9:20	Synchronous Related Arts		Period 1 8:40-9:20	Asynchronous Worktime (WIN)		Period 1 7:35-8:27	Synchronous ELA
Period 2 9:25-10:05	Synchronous ELA (30)	Asynchronous ELA Worktime (10)	Period 2 9:25-10:05	Synchronous ELA		Period 2 8:30-9:12	Asynchronous ELA Worktime
Period 3 10:10-10:50	Asynchronous Worktime (WIN)		Period 3 10:10-10:50	Synchronous ELA (20)	Asynchronous ELA Worktime (20)	Period 3 9:15-9:57	Synchronous Math
Period 4 10:55-11:35	Synchronous ELA (30)	Asynchronous ELA Worktime (10)	Period 4 10:55-11:35	Synchronous Science or Social Studies		Period 4 10:01-10:43	Asynchronous Math Worktime
Period 5 11:40-12:20	Lunch/Recess		Period 5 11:40-12:20	Lunch/Recess		Period 5 10:47-11:29	Lunch/Activity Break
Period 6 12:20-1:00	Synchronous Math		Period 6 12:20-1:00	Synchronous Math		Period 6 11:33-12:15	Asynchronous Related Arts (WAVA)
Period 7 1:05-1:45	Synchronous Math (20)	Asynchronous Math Worktime (20)	Period 7 1:05-1:45	Synchronous Math (20)	Asynchronous Math Worktime(20)	Period 7 12:18-1:00	Synchronous Social Studies
Period 8 1:50-2:30	Synchronous Science or Social Studies		Period 8 1:50-2:30	Synchronous Related Arts		Period 8 1:03-1:50	Synchronous Science
Period 9 2:35-3:15	Additional Asynchronous Worktime		Period 9 2:35-3:15	Additional Asynchronous Worktime		Period 9 1:53-2:35	Asynchronous Related Arts (WAVA)

During synchronous instruction, teachers will utilize instructional strategies that include both teacher-directed instruction and explanation of content as well as providing students time to actively engage with content and their peers. This is consistent with the instructional practices employed in traditional classrooms. Teachers will utilize Zoom and Canvas conferencing to deliver instruction and for class engagements.



Assignments

A teacher will provide daily direct instruction to introduce new content and students will be responsible for completing assignments on that content independently with parent/guardian support. The assignment workload will mirror the expectations of students receiving in-person instruction. All assignments will be posted in Canvas for student and parent access. Student assignments must be submitted to teachers for feedback and grading purposes according to teacher assigned due dates. Some assignments may span multiple days and will be noted as such by the teacher. It is important to note that students will experience the same curriculum and grade level expectations as students attending in-person instruction.

Students are expected to maintain the student code of conduct and academic integrity policies as outlined in the student handbook. Students are expected to be on pace with their courses and assignments. Students may lose full or partial credit for assignments that are not completed. This loss of points could negatively impact a student's grade, which may be reflected on a student's report card. It would be in the best interest of the student to complete all assignments each week. Families experiencing extenuating circumstances that prevent a student from completing assignments should contact the teacher by email. Efforts will be made by West Allegheny staff to support students in having a successful online learning experience from home.

Grading

Students participating in synchronous online learning will follow the same district calendar and marking periods. Standard grading guidelines and procedures will apply. Assessments will be given in the online learning environment. The purpose of assessment is to gather information about student learning. Efforts should be made to allow students to take exams independently to produce an accurate reflection of each student's learning. Grades on assignments and assessments will be visible to parents through Canvas and final grades for the marking period will be reflected on student report cards.

Student and Family Support

West Allegheny teachers are ready and willing to support students and families participating in synchronous online learning. Teachers will be available via email during school hours when not in synchronous sessions or providing in-person instruction. Teachers will respond to inquiries within a reasonable timeframe. Other forms of communication for educational purposes such as phone calls, conference calls, webinars, text messages, and screen sharing, are encouraged where appropriate based on parent and teacher comfort levels. It is not appropriate for parents/guardians to interrupt live instruction to ask the teacher questions. The online live time is dedicated to instructing our online learners.



Student Services

School counselors and nurses, as well as district school psychologists are available to support families participating in synchronous online learning. They are part of the supports that are available for your child/ren within this educational delivery model. They can be contacted by email or phone and will respond to inquiries in a reasonable timeframe. When emailing, please always be sure to leave a call back number. In addition, if your child received services from a Family Links therapist, these sessions will continue. Students who were participating in brick and mortar sessions with the therapists will have opportunities for virtual therapy. Family Links therapists will contact families to facilitate the continuity of such services.

Special Education, Gifted Education, and English as a Second Language

Students participating in synchronous online learning and receiving services through special education, gifted education, and/or English as Second Language programming will continue to receive services virtually. Service options will be developed in collaboration with parents and will be based on the services provided in student IEPs. Specially designed instruction and related services such as speech or occupational therapy will occur virtually to the extent possible. ESL supports will be provided remotely as appropriate.

- **Speech-** If your child receives speech services, your child's speech and language therapist will contact you to review your child's speech and language goals and to determine a plan for remote implementation that may include virtual sessions, phone calls and student practice sessions.
- **Gifted-** If your child receives gifted services, your child's gifted education teacher will contact you to review your child's GIEP goals and to discuss and determine focus areas for enrichment that will be provided during online learning.
- **ESL-** If your child receives English as a Second Language services, your child's ESL teacher will contact you to discuss activities and options to support your child during the school closure. Your child's ESL teacher will collaborate with your child's team to determine appropriate ESL programming.

Meal Service

Grab and go meal service will be offered to students who participate in synchronous online learning if their family qualify for free or reduced lunch. For those families choosing to participate in the meal service program, meals can be picked up daily at the **middle school** for all schools in the district between 12pm-1pm daily. Meals will be delivered curbside in the back of the middle school and families will not enter the school. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Jackie Poolson, West Allegheny Food Service Director at 724-695-5254, email jpoolson@westasd.org.

Technology



To participate in synchronous online learning students must have consistent access to an internet accessible technology device and internet access. The district will provide all students with a district issued Chromebook to use while participating in synchronous online learning. Hot spots will be made available, by request, to qualifying families who may need support to provide consistent internet access in the home. Students will keep their device for the school year. Devices will be available for pick up on Thursday, August 20, 2020.

Because families will be responsible for the care of any devices that are sent home, we are offering the opportunity for families to purchase device-based insurance. Families are encouraged to use the district's insurance for your child's device. Families have two options for insurance coverage. A \$19 dollar per device premium for damage, or a \$27 per device premium that also covers theft/burglary. Both coverage plans include unlimited claims with no deductible. Families who do not elect to receive coverage will be fully responsible for associated costs in the event of damage or loss.

When a damage incident occurs, the student will turn the device in to the technology department, which will provide a temporary replacement device, inspect the device and file the insurance claim, and process the repair.

The Family Portal to register for insurance coverage will be shared with families on Monday, August 10.

Athletics and Activities

Athletics and extracurricular activities are important aspects of providing students a well-rounded education. All students participating in synchronous online learning may still participate in any district sponsored athletics or extra-curricular activities. Please contact your child's school principal to make arrangements for any athletic and/or activity participation.

Enrollment

Students are enrolled in the synchronous online model for a minimum of the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year. After the first semester, they are welcome to evaluate their experience and modify their choice to select the option that they feel will work best for their family at that time. All students participating in synchronous online learning will remain enrolled as students in their respective schools.

Continuity of Learning During School Closures

One of the benefits of participating in the synchronous online learning program is the continuity of learning your child will receive in the event of a school closure. Students enrolled in synchronous online learning will continue in their assigned classes with their assigned teachers in each phase of the district's reopening plan. While a school and/or district closure may cause in-person students to transition to the Remote Learning 2.0 plan, your child will remain in synchronous online learning with the same classes, teachers, and schedules.