

Holly Ridge Elementary

07/23/2020

Hello Holly Ridge Elementary Families, I hope this email finds you doing well! With the decision on Tuesday by the WCPSS Board of Education to move to online learning to start the new school year, that obviously impacts all of us. We are working at the school level now to adapt to this new plan. I hope the information below is helpful to you, and we will continue to update you with more details as we get closer to the beginning of the school year.

Starting School Remotely

The decision was made for all students in WCPSS to begin the school year with online instruction. The first two weeks of school for all students will focus on orientation, meet and greet opportunities, and distribution of supplies. As we just received this information Tuesday as well, we are currently working through the details of what that may look like at our school. We hope to share more information with you very soon. The return to school for students in both the Virtual Academy and Plan B Transition options is scheduled for August 17.

The district also announced that their hope is to bring students back in the building as soon as practical for face-to-face instruction for those not enrolled in the Virtual Academy. There is a target date of September 8 to bring the Pre-K students and special education students served in regional programs back to the building first – with the hope to get other students back as quickly as feasible. (Please note that the special education students in regional programs are not the students in the general education classroom supported by the CCR teachers.) Of course, the return of any student to campus is contingent upon the ability to provide a safe learning environment and the current situation related to the spread of COVID-19.

Update for the WCPSS Virtual Academy

We've had a very large percentage of our students enroll in the WCPSS Virtual Academy. However, with the change in plans enacted on Tuesday the district is going to reopen the window to enroll (or if desired, unenroll) in the VA.

If you wish for your child to be enrolled in the VA, the window to enroll will reopen on **July 27** at 12:01 am and will remain open through **July 29** at 5:00 pm. You can access updated information and the enrollment link here: [VA Website](#).

If you previously enrolled but wish to change your choice and unenroll, then please email me (jgorman@wcpss.net) and our VA Contact, Candace Lehew (clehew@wcpss.net). However, please do so by the **July 29** deadline as noted above – we will need to finalize our class lists and teacher assignments quickly.

Technology Needs and Distribution

Parents (excluding Pre-K families) have received a survey from WCPSS regarding any technology needs. The WCPSS Technology Department is asking **ALL parents** to please

respond to this survey when you receive it, since all students will participate in some form of remote learning. The distribution of Chromebooks and internet hotspot devices will be handled directly through the WCPSS Technology Department – not the school.

In response to parent feedback from the survey provided during our last round of remote learning, the district is streamlining the remote learning platforms that will be used. For both the remote learning and VA *all HRES teachers and students will be using Google Classroom for their platform*. In addition, there will be information and processes put in place to provide technical support to teachers, students, and families as they engage in the virtual learning opportunities.

Updates to Lunch and Food Distribution

Plans for curbside service at strategic locations are being determined along with designated service times for food distribution for students engaged in remote learning and the VA. Please know, however, that after August 31, 2020, based on current federal regulations, the following items would apply to meals:

- Students eligible for free and reduced-price meals will receive free meals. Remember that you have to apply each year for free or reduced-price meals. You can find the online application and more information here: <https://www.wcpss.net/meals>.
- Students not eligible for free and reduced-price meals will have to pay.
- Under current regulations, a student ID number will be required for meals as proof of enrollment and the adult must prove they are the parent/guardian if the student is not present.

I want to thank you for your patience as we navigate through these latest changes. We are trying to adapt to new information as quickly as possible, and put into place a plan that provides your child a positive environment and opportunity to learn. I am thankful for the tremendous support from our school community!

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any additional questions. Please stay safe, stay cool, and stay tuned for more information to come!