

Wednesday Words

August 5, 2020

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

I hope you receive this message with anticipation for the new school year to begin. Even though everything will be completely different than anything anyone has ever experienced before, our wonderful Lacy staff is ready to start the year with all the Lacy Lions! I am going to update you on where we are with our Lacy numbers and also outline what to expect over the next few weeks.

Current Numbers at Lacy Elementary:

Grade Level	Plan B Transition	Virtual Academy	Total #s as of 8/5/20
K	73	21	94
1st	104	47	151
2nd	98	39	98
3rd	84	31	115
4th	85	31	116
5th	77	52	129
Total	482	221 (31%)	703

Even though the Virtual Academy numbers will not fluctuate, our total enrollment is being updated daily so these numbers are as of this morning. If you know that you are not returning to Lacy this fall or you have a Kindergartner not yet registered, please contact Emily Spooney, espooney@wcpss.net.

What should you expect starting August 17th? The **first two weeks** of school are Orientation Weeks across the district. This is the time when your child will meet their teachers and other classmates, participate in “onboarding” learning activities during scheduled live Google Meets, and complete some independent work. Some orientation activities may include:

- Daily Morning Meetings at **8:30 a.m.** and Get to Know You activities with their homeroom group.
- Learning to use Google Classroom (all students K-5 will use), digital interactive tools and other digital methods for receiving lessons, participating in activities, and completing and uploading assignments.
- Meeting with teachers in small groups or individually to establish relationships.
- Establishing clear expectations around attendance and work completion, norms for how to work together during live instruction, and reviewing the daily schedule with students

so they know exactly when to join “live” instruction through Google Meets during the day.

- The first two weeks of Orientation will **not** be a time when you would expect 5-6 hours of instructional assignments or 2.5 hours of live instruction. This will begin after the first two weeks.
- During these two weeks, we will also have a **material distribution** when you will come to the school to pick up your child’s “School Pack.” It will contain instructional supplies needed for first quarter work, some of which are coming from the district and some coming from the classroom. We will create a safe system for you pick up these materials over two days which will likely be the end of the first week (details to still be ironed out).
- Teachers will also host **virtual “open house”** during which time you will meet your child’s teachers and orient you to the digital tools as well as the expectations of your child’s remote learning. Information regarding the date/times will be communicated through your child’s homeroom teacher.
- We will **not** have **Staggered Entry** this year for our incoming Kindergarteners. Our Kindergarten teachers will be setting up times to meet individually with your child, as well as host a Welcome to K orientation for families. There will be directions given to teachers on when students will be participating in math and reading assessments which will be done electronically. More information will be coming.
- The district will be distributing **laptops and hotspots** to families who requested them on August 17 from five distribution centers: Apex High, Enloe High, Knightdale High, Leesville Road High, and South Garner High. Families will be assigned a date to collect their requested devices. They will be allowed to pick up their devices from any location on or after their assigned date. If you need a device or a hotspot and did not complete the survey, please send your request to Emily Spooney. We will be calling every family that did not respond so to save us the call, if you know you need one, please let Emily know. Every student at Lacy should have a device at home and not have to share. If you were given a device in the spring from us that now does not work, please take it with you to one of the distribution centers and they will replace.

[**FYI: Laptop and Hotspot Distribution Dates and Locations**](#)

Class Groups and Daily Schedule: WCPSS will be giving us our school transportation lists very soon. As soon as we receive them, we will assign your child to one of three learning groups. Those groups will determine your child’s instructional schedule for the year when we are back at school. Until then, please know that the daily schedule for all (Plan B and VA) will call for live instruction both in the morning and afternoon to support math and ELA daily, and science and social studies with a special daily along with a one hour lunch and periodic breaks. My goal is to send out the daily schedule with you by next Wednesday. Please know that we are following the Lacy bell schedule and you can expect live instruction to happen at 8:30 a.m. and nothing scheduled after 3:00 p.m. This will help when we transition back into the building.

What a day may look like? When your child is not attending a live Google Meet with a teacher, they should be working on the activities that go along with the lesson. These might include videos, reading passages, answering questions, solving problems, or writing. Some work will be completed online and submitted through Google Classroom; other classwork will be completed on paper (i.e. math worksheets or EL workbook pages). Aside from scheduled live Meets, your child may complete the day's assignments at any time during the day or evening. Live meets may include the whole class, small groups, or individual help.

What can you do to prepare for the school year?

- Please try to set up a specific place where your child will engage in their school work and establish a place where they can keep all their materials. They might keep items in a backpack, a box, on a bookshelf, or stacked on a table.
- Review these two important documents:
 - [Expectations of students and parents during remote learning](#)
 - [How-To's for our digital tools](#) (You might want to bookmark this one).
- Join the PTA and sign up for Member Hub (email sent yesterday by PTA Presidents through Member Hub).

I know this is a lot of information! More details will be shared next Wednesday. Thank you for your patience and grace as we navigate these uncharted waters! We are stronger together and what a wonderful Lacy family to belong to especially during these times. Please send a huge hello and hug to your children from all of us at Lacy. We are eager to “see” and meet them.

We look forward to the start of school on Monday, August 17th.

Proud Principal of Lacy,

Sherri Miller