

# Wednesday Words

July 22, 2020

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

I hope you are somehow staying cool in this sweltering heat. I know the past week has been a stressful week for many as you were made a decision on Virtual Academy or Plan B. As of late yesterday afternoon, the Board voted for everyone to **begin the school year in online learning**. The **Plan B “Transition”** was created based on the feedback from parents and staff and a strategy for allowing us time for protocols and procedures to all be in place to make sure students are safe and staff are ready for the new health/safety guidelines. The “Plan B Transition” allows us to pivot to a more strategic opening for students. We will be able to practice what it would be like for students by opening on September 8<sup>th</sup> with our Preschoolers and our students with disabilities served in regional programs coming to school daily without weekly rotations. Students who have not applied for Virtual Academy will transition to in-person instruction as practical (decided by the district and not me).

## What has changed from last Wednesday:

- Our first two weeks will focus on orientations for students and families, virtual meet-and-greet sessions, and the distribution of instructional materials starting on August 17<sup>th</sup>;
- At this time, the district has provided guidance to not plan for grouping students within three different groups;
- Students will no longer come to school in person on M, W, or F of the first two weeks;
- **New Application Period of WCPSS Virtual Academy:** All students will have a second opportunity to apply for the WCPSS Virtual Academy on July 27 - July 29. The application will open the morning of July 27 and close on July 29 at 5 p.m. If you have applied to the WCPSS Virtual Academy and would like to withdraw or change your application from semester to year or year to semester, please contact Emily Spooney directly at [espooney@wcpss.net](mailto:espooney@wcpss.net).
- If you would like to watch the Virtual Academy Open House, please click here: [Watch the Virtual Academy Open House](#). Closed captioning is available in English and Spanish. There is also an updated Virtual Academy FAQs on our website as well as the district's website.
- As of the close of Virtual Academy Application Window, we have the following number of students registered: K-17, 1<sup>st</sup>-37, 2<sup>nd</sup>-29, 3<sup>rd</sup>-22, 4<sup>th</sup>-25, and 5<sup>th</sup>-49. We will be able to have Lacy teachers teach all students based on these numbers. We do not know yet class groupings as that work will begin at our SIP Retreat on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Still the same:

- Online instruction will occur Monday-Friday (unlike the spring). There will be 5-6 hours of instruction planned for each day no matter the learning environment with 2.5 hours of “live instruction” happening each day for everyone (Plan B Transition AND Virtual

Academy). The time on the screen will depend on the age of the student (still to be determined). Literacy and Math will occur every day.

- **Every student** will have a device for learning at home given by the district. Over 155 students were already given a device in the spring but now the district will be providing enough devices for each student to have one at home. From what I heard yesterday at the Principal's Meeting, there will be 5 different distribution sites across the county where families will pick up their child's Chromebook across a two-week window (not yet determined). Please be on the look out for an email from WCPSS next week with a **device needs survey** where you will be able to indicate how many you will need for your school-age child(ren). I will be sure to include in next week's Wednesday Words as well.
- If you have a **rising Kindergarten** student that will be attending school next year (2020-2021), please go online to WCPSS and register them for school. If you have any questions, please send an email to Emily Spooney at (espooney@wcpss.net).
- Please email Emily Spooney at (espooney@wcpss.net) if your child or children will **not** be attending Lacy Elementary next school year 2020-2021.

The most important thing to remember is that no matter the learning plan, Plan B "Transition" or Virtual Academy, your child will receive high quality instruction and will feel part of our Lacy family taught by Lacy teachers! What could be better other than us all in the building together as we were on March 13<sup>th</sup>!

I am with my family in the mountains for a few days of vacation and will be off on Thursday and Friday of this week. Please know that I am here and willing to hop on a call with you on Monday. You can also send me questions but know that I am trying hard to disconnect for just a few days and will return your email with answers on Monday.

We are in this together!

With grace,

Sherri Miller