Friday, July 17, 2020

Dear WLCSD Parents,

As we shared last week, Walled Lake Schools is working to finalize the WLCSD Safe Start Roadmap Plan with our two committees, The Fall Planning Task Force and The Fall Planning Steering Committee. Both committees met this week and are working daily on the virtual learning plan and the face-to-face option.

**The WLCSD Virtual Learning Option:**

The Walled Lake Schools Virtual Learning Option is an enhanced, remote/virtual learning option for WLCSD families with the personal teacher connection that real learning requires. The design of this offering is more robust, structured, and flexible than the virtual program offered this spring. WLCSD staff are working on the curriculum, lessons, social emotional components, and creative ways to reach our students. Our Board of Education will be reviewing the specifics at its Board of Education meeting on Thursday, July 30. This option is for our families who do not feel comfortable coming back to school on August 31. There will be an online presentation regarding this plan the first week of August and we will be asking parents who choose to do so to opt in to the Virtual Learning Option at the beginning of August. More details to come.

**Safety is key as WLCSD prepares to welcome students back to school:**

Safety is the top priority as we plan to bring students back. Being proactive, the Walled Lake Schools plan will include information from the three pillars that parents prioritized as most important: *health and safety, social emotional well-being, and quality instruction.* Most importantly, proactive safety protocols are being refined with the guidance of local and State health officials.
• Personal Protective Equipment, hygiene, and movement in the buildings will be covered in the plan: Walled Lake Schools will be following the [MI Safe Start Plan](https://www.michigan.gov/HealthAndHumanServices) required items in the plan, including having staff wear masks. Students in hallways, common areas, and on buses will wear masks (barring medical necessity). Only students and staff will be in buildings and there will be reduced movement within schools and specific processes for breakfast and lunch food service.

• We are considering an opt-in process for transportation eligible students – only students who opt-in will be on buses. Masks will be required on the buses. Parents may choose to drive their students.

• There will be more attention to cleaning processes for each school.

• We will have clearly defined protocols for communicating and working with staff and students who test positive for COVID-19. We are already using these processes successfully with our [optional fall athletic training](https://www.sportsinformationcenter.com/news/2020-10-01 opcionall-fall-athletic-training).

• Continued quality instruction is at the core of what our educators are concentrating on, as well as incorporating a process to “check in” with students so we can gauge their social and emotional well-being and collaboratively offer assistance with local resources.

**Additional information:**

• [Superintendent Gutman communicates](https://www.oaklandcounty.org/Departments/MeetingInformation/Superintendent-Communications): Oakland County Megacast (July,13)

• [WLCSD will release fall reopening plans in late July](https://www.wallescopolice.com/news/2020-07-06/wlcsd-release-reopening-plans) (Spinal Column Article)

• [Food Distribution](https://www.wallescopolice.com/news/2020-07-06/wlcsd-release-reopening-plans): The Hospitality Food Pantry is open to serve our families and other Oakland County Food Distribution.

• [Keeping our children healthy social and emotionally](https://www.oaklandcounty.org/Departments/PublicHealth/Healthy-Schools): Lakes Area Community Coalition Newsletter

• [Chromebook returns](https://www.wallescopolice.com/news/2020-07-06/wlcsd-release-reopening-plans): There is a return drop off box located at the Educational Services Center, 850 Ladd Road, Walled Lake, by the Community Education entrance where the video screen is located, and is available Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Congratulations:**

• [Kamila Podsiadlo](https://www.wallescopolice.com/news/2020-07-06/wlcsd-release-reopening-plans), Walled Lake Western High School junior, who earned 2020 All American honors from NISCA in diving for the 2019-2020 season. She placed in the top 100 in the nation for high school divers. Way to go!
• **Janice Sterling**, Loon Lake Elementary fourth-grader, has spent much time this summer making a variety of fibers crafts, selling them and giving the proceeds to Oakland Family Services. Experiential learning experiences provide life lessons. Thank you Janice.

There is much to consider as we prioritize safety and re-enter school this fall. Thank you for your patience as we compile the information from both committees to create a thorough and detailed plan, while keeping the safety of our students and staff as the priority.

Please stay safe,

Kenneth Gutman

Superintendent of Schools