



## REOPENING WISSAHICKON ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We hope this email finds you healthy and well, and this summer has been like no other for many of us as these are truly unprecedented times. We know many of you have questions about the start of the new school year, and every day we are receiving new/updated guidance from the Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Often times the guidance is conflicting and confusing so we need flexibility to interpret them. We will continue to adapt and modify our plan as needed, with the safety of your child and our staff first and foremost in our minds. As changes occur, we will keep you informed and also please check our website at [www.wsdweb.org](http://www.wsdweb.org) for more information.

We have created a document for some of the most commonly questions asked, and these are the answers that we have to date, but please know things can and most likely will change, therefore another updated document will be sent out in a few weeks, or as needed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bialka, Dr. Lupo, Ms. Sasin and Dr. Walsh  
Wissahickon Elementary School Principals

### **IN-PERSON/BRICK AND MORTAR— Students attend in-person instruction each day, with social distancing of 4 – 6 feet.**

- Students are assigned to homeroom teachers as in the past years. Class lists will be posted online in Infinite Campus during the week of August 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Social distancing of 4-6 feet will be required, with everyone wearing masks, per recent state directive.
- Outdoor spaces will be utilized as much as possible, especially for PE and morning/afternoon breaks.
- Breakfast will be grab and go to be eaten in the classroom, and lunches may be in the cafeteria, as well as other spaces available in the school. There will be 6 feet social distancing measures in place in eating areas.
- Lunches will be one grade level at a time, 30 minutes like before, but no overlap of lunch sessions.
- Morning/Afternoon breaks will be scheduled by the classroom teacher and there will only one class at a time in their own designated area to maintain social distancing. Masks will not need to be worn outside unless the groups are lining up or cannot keep 6 feet apart from one another.
- As always students will be encouraged to bring a healthy/safe snack to be consumed in their classroom daily.
- Kindergarten Orientation and Back to School Nights will be virtual with more details forthcoming.
- Recess equipment will not be shared. Students will have an opportunity to run or walk around and get some fresh air each day, as well as opportunities for structured play.
- Limited movement throughout the building when feasible—for example, one direction hallways when possible, with clear markings on the floors and hallways.
- Encore Classes (Art, Music, Guidance, and Library) will take place in the homerooms (specific details still to be determined). Physical Education classes will be held outdoors as often as possible.
- Students who go to services in the building, such as reading, ESL, and special education will be required to wear a face mask/face shield and social distancing will occur with dividers on the desks, as needed.

- Numerous safety measures will be in place—disinfecting supplies available in all classrooms, maximizing air circulation and filtration in all buildings, and safety signage through the school.
- Reminders about handwashing and other preventive measures, routine disinfecting of high contact areas, and nightly sanitizing of all spaces. Teachers will monitor handwashing in the classrooms with touchless hand sanitizers throughout the building.
- Masks will be required in all spaces in the building, except for lunch per the orders from Governor Wolf and the Department of Health. Any child who forgets his/her mask will be provided one.
- All volunteers into the school will be suspended at this time for the safety of all.
- All field trips and assemblies as well as large group gatherings will be suspended at this time.
- Students will not share supplies such as pencils, rulers and crayons. Materials that are shared will be sanitized between each use.
- Students will be encouraged to bring in water bottles.
- Monitoring of students and staff to ensure they remain healthy.
- Protocols will be in place if a student or staff member does become ill. The Montgomery County Health Department is providing all schools with specific protocols to follow.
- Special attention to all students' well-being will be in place with support from the School Counselor as needed.
- On-going safety training will be provided for all staff and students in regards to social distancing and handwashing.
- Busing will be provided in two tiers with precautions such as 100% face coverings at all times, students spread out as much as possible and windows open as often as possible, etc. (details are still being determined)

**WSD VIRTUAL LEARNING FOR K-5—Students in the Virtual Learning will take all of their classes online. Please note: this is NOT the same online program we initiated during the spring of 2020. The Curriculum Department, is developing a robust learning experience that will keep students engaged and part of the WSD experience. More information will be forthcoming from the Curriculum Department as this program is refined and clarified.**

- Most lessons will be synchronous (presented “LIVE”) with students at home. The timeframe for elementary will be from 9 AM – 3 PM, tentatively. There will be breaks scheduled throughout the day for lunch, physical movement, and community-building.
- The virtual day will resemble a typical “brick and mortar” elementary school day.
- Encore lessons will be taught, most likely in an asynchronous format.
- Counselors will be available to provide support and address concerns.
- Whole class, small group, and individual instruction will enable the teachers to address the students' differentiated learning needs.
- All classes are taught by our highly qualified WSD elementary-certified teachers.
- Special Education students will continue to have a case manager assigned as well as related/support services provided by WSD staff.
- A district-issued computer device/Chromebook will be provided to each WSD student engaged in virtual learning.
- A sense of community will be established and nurtured in the virtual environment.
- The school counselor will be available to support the mental health and well-being of all students.
- The Curriculum Department will be providing professional development to teachers. The teachers will be delivering a robust learning experience that will keep students engaged and will reflect the rigor and quality of the in-person learning experience.