

Williamsburg Community School District

Back to School FAQ

How will the ABABA hybrid model of education work?

All students will be divided into Group A and Group B. This model was chosen as it gives us the most face to face instruction time with students. The AABB model we originally looked at gave us 4 days of face to face instruction with students over a 10 day period whereas the ABABA model gives us 5 days of face to face instruction over a 10 day period. Group A will attend school on Mondays, Wednesdays and every other Friday. Group B will attend every Tuesday, Thursday and every other Friday.

Students will be given face to face instruction on their designated day. On their virtual day, they will work on assignments and projects from their in person day. This is typically how a regular school year works with direct instruction on one day and practice/projects the next day. **No new content will be taught on a virtual day.** Students will access their assignments on their school issued chromebook. Students will not be required to log in at specific times. They will work on their assignments at their pace. **All Assignments must be completed on the virtual day by 11:59 pm in order for attendance to count.** If your child is having difficulty with a particular assignment, please email the teacher indicating this difficulty so your child's attendance can be counted. Live streaming will not be utilized at this time.

My child attends the CTC. When will they attend?

CTC students will attend the CTC on the days they are face to face at WHS. Group A will attend on Monday and Wednesday, and Group B will attend on Tuesday and Thursday. When students are on their virtual day, they will work on their assignments from the CTC while at home. The CTC will be closed on Fridays. CTC students can arrive at WHS at 11:20 on their scheduled face to face day. If students need to arrive earlier than 11:20 due to transportation issues, they can come to the high school and will be given a location to work on their virtual assignments.

What if my child is having difficulty completing assignments on their virtual day?

After school support will be provided face to face in each building. Elementary support will be from 3:30-4:30 Monday through Thursday, and high school support from 3:00-4:00 Monday through Thursday. If your child needs help completing assignments, they can attend after school support regardless if they were on their virtual day or in person. We will have to work through this and see how it goes. If many students attend after school support and we do not have enough staff to properly social distance students, we may have to reassess this plan. Please try to notify the school offices if you know your child will be attending after school support so we can plan accordingly prior to the specified time.

Are facial coverings mandatory?

According to PA Department of Education guidelines, students and staff are required to wear a facial covering. A facial covering can be anything that covers the mouth and nose. Masks, gaiters and face shields are acceptable. The District will work with any family whose student has a medical condition and doctor documentation indicating a face covering cannot be worn. Any student **without** medical documentation who refuses to wear a face covering while at school may be subject to disciplinary action.

Will my child have to wear a face covering all day while in school even if they are 6 feet apart from others?

The guidance that was released on August 17, 2020 indicates face coverings are required even if 6 feet apart. The guidance allows for “mask breaks” no longer than 10 minutes each break. Staff will be directed to give frequent mask breaks throughout the day in order to minimize the amount of time students have to wear masks. With the hybrid model, most of our K-12 classrooms will be able to social distance at least 6 feet (in many classrooms even more than 6 feet) so we feel comfortable providing students with many mask breaks throughout the day. Please note, students will have to wear a face covering while in hallways, bathrooms, at the cafeteria serving line and any other time they cannot social distance.

Can I wear a facial covering from home?

Yes, you can wear a facial covering from home. The district will provide each student and staff member with a gaiter and will have disposable masks available daily.

Do facial coverings need to be worn at recess and gym class?

No, teachers will plan activities that promote social distancing so students will not have to wear a facial covering. At the elementary school, teachers will promote socially distanced activities during recess. Students will be permitted on playground equipment. Playground equipment will be disinfected daily, weather permitting. **Please note: No toys/playground equipment is permitted to be brought to school from home.**

During gym class in all grades, the Physical Education teachers will promote activities where social distancing can occur. When gym equipment is used during class, it will be disinfected between uses. All students will be required to wash their hands before and after recess and gym class.

Do facial coverings need to be worn on the bus?

Yes, facial coverings must be worn at all times on the bus to and from school in order to comply with the state face covering mandate. Students who do not wear a face covering while on the bus may be subject to disciplinary action.

Are students permitted to bring treats to celebrate their birthday?

No, the PTO at the elementary school is providing treats each month to celebrate students' birthdays. Thank you to our PTO!

Are students allowed to bring a water bottle to school?

Yes. The District has replaced several traditional water fountains in each building with water bottle filling stations. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles to fill each day. **Please be sure your child's name is on the water bottle. Please do not utilize a water bottle with a pop up nozzle that students have to push and down with their fingers to open/close.** Students will bring their bottles home every night to be washed.

Will students be provided with a technology device?

All students K-12 will be provided with a chromebook. Students will bring their chromebook home every night so it is available to them for the virtual days and to be charged. Chromebooks are expected to be charged to begin every school day. Chromebook usage and device protection forms will be required for students to receive their chromebook. The District MUST have the chromebook usage form signed by the parent before your child will receive a chromebook to take home. The device protection is optional for parents/guardians but the form must be returned to school by September 17, 2020 regardless if you choose the protection or not. Please watch the District website for these forms. **You can print them out and send them to school with your child on the first day of school so there is no delay in giving them their chromebook. Completed, signed forms can also be emailed to mparks@williamsburg.k12.pa.us (elementary) or jeverhart@williamsburg.k12.pa.us (jr/sr high school) prior to the first day of school.**

Should parents screen their child before sending him/her to school?

Yes. The Williamsburg Community School District Health and Safety Plan indicates that parents are to screen their child everyday before leaving for school every morning. **If your child's temperature is more than 100°, you must keep them home. This is without fever reducing medication.** Keep your child home if they are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms. Notify the school immediately if your child is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 and/or if your child or someone your child has been in contact with is known to have COVID-19. It is imperative that we work together to ensure our students can stay in school as long as possible, therefore, it is imperative that you do the daily health screenings with your child.

What if my child is sent home with a fever?

Any student who is identified as having a fever while in school will be sent home. Your child must have a doctor's note to return to school and they must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.

Will the District have a quarantine room for staff/students who may be exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms?

Yes. Each building has a designated quarantine room for any students/staff who are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms in school. This includes fever, cough, shortness of breath, etc. Students will be supervised if in the quarantine room until parents arrive to pick up their child. If your child is in a quarantine room, you will be directed how to pick them up when notified from the Nurse or school office. All staff and students will be required to wear face coverings while in the quarantine room.

What time should my child arrive at school?

Please do not arrive before 8:30 for elementary students. We do not want large groups of students congregating on the bus port or inside the building. Students will report to their classrooms at 8:35. The homeroom teacher will send students to the cafeteria if they are eating breakfast. High school students should not arrive before 7:35. High school students will report directly to their lockers and 1st period class upon arrival. Any student wanting breakfast will pick up their breakfast in the breakfast room and eat in the auditorium where tables will be set up. No students will be permitted to eat in the classrooms. **Only CTC students will be permitted in the building at 7:30 to get a breakfast before leaving for the CTC.**

How will my child be dismissed from school?

At the elementary school, walkers will be dismissed by grade level. Bus students will be dismissed by bus number. **Please note: Elementary bus students may not start being dismissed until approximately 3:45-3:50 because the buses will need to be disinfected after the high school dismissal run. The disinfectant needs 10 minutes to dry.**

High school students will be dismissed by classroom. This will allow for staggered students throughout the building during dismissal.

Will my child have to quarantine for 14 days if we travel to a state listed on the Governor's website while school is in session?

Please notify the school if your child plans to visit a state considered a "hot spot" on the Governor's website. Your child may have to quarantine for 14 days before returning to school. Your child will be able to access all work during those 14 days on the chromebook. As long as assignments are completed, your child will be considered in attendance for those 14 days.

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, will the school close?

If the District is notified of a possible or confirmed COVID-19 case, we will notify the Pennsylvania Department of Health for guidance. In addition, PDE has released information of Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 schools following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19. This document can be reviewed on PDE's website.

If this FAQ has not answered any other questions you have, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Murgas, Mr. Jones or Mrs. Metzler.