

Greetings WM Parents and Families,

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation with all of our changes during this school year. We have completed three weeks of a successful transition back to K-4 in-person learning and 5-12 hybrid learning at WM Public Schools. We have seen very mild activity in regards to COVID cases in our schools and community since we have returned. Please reference our [WM Covid-19 Dashboard / Homepage](#) to view current COVID-19 data.

**5-12 Learning Mode Changes:**

Welcoming back K-12 students to in-person learning has been our goal since the start of the school year. We have reviewed our next steps and have received approval by our Regional Support team to begin a rolling start in which 5-12 students will be gradually brought back into school for in-person instruction. Please note our plan:

Phase 1- Weeks of Feb 8 and Feb 15: Continue to review all school and community COVID data.

Phase 2- Feb. 19th: No School for 5-12 students (HS/MS Staff Planning/Transition Day)

Phase 3- Feb. 22nd: Begin transitioning Grades 5-6 and 9 and 12 to in-person learning.  
Grades 7-8 and 10-11 remain in hybrid learning

Phase 4- March 8th: Begin transitioning Grades 7-8 and 10-11 to in-person learning.

We will continue to designate Wednesdays as a Distance Learning day for grades 5-12. This day will allow our secondary teachers to provide asynchronous learning and give time for necessary preparation time requirements per state executive order.

MDE/MDH has recommended a phase-in approach for grades 5-12 returning to full in-person instruction. We feel 5th and 6th grade students are categorized as “elementary” students by MDE and are a high priority to be back in-person. We also feel our 9th grade students need the opportunity to be on campus on a regular basis, and our 12th grade students need to continue to stay on track for graduation.

**Distance Learning**

Families who have registered for Distance Learning have the option of returning to school for in-person learning if they choose. Please contact your building principal to arrange for that return. The Distance Learning option will continue to be provided regardless of the learning model we are in, and we will continue with Distance Learning for the remainder of the school year. Once all students are in-person, the hybrid option will no longer be available for students.

**Continued Safety Measures In Place**

In order to continue to keep our students and staff safe in this transition, it is important that continued mask wearing and physical distancing occurs when possible. Initially, the reason we changed our learning model to distance learning in late November was due to staffing needs. Returning to in-person learning does not mean the spread of the virus does not exist. It is even more imperative that we all work together to help in our mitigation practices in school and outside of school in order to stay in the “in-person” learning model. More specific safety protocols and MS/HS information will be shared early next week.

Please keep in mind that our return dates are contingent on maintaining our current COVID rates and staffing levels.. We are excited to begin the process of returning all students back to in-person learning. Thank you for your continued support and patience. We will continue to provide you with updates.

Together in Education,

Darren Schuler