

March 26, 2021

Dear WCASD Parents,

We are making a slight adjustment to our new attendance procedure for our in-person students, and want to explain the reasoning for this policy and clarify its goals. Thank you for taking a moment to read this note.

As we are transitioning back to having more students in our schools, some of our classrooms no longer have students learning remotely. We had decided, as an administrative team, that moving forward we would only allow our in-person students to temporarily remote into their classrooms if they are quarantining because of COVID-19.

We are modifying this procedure to clarify that if a parent is unsure of whether a child is beginning to exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, we do ask you to err on the side of caution and keep your child home (please refer to our [COVID symptom checklist](#)) and we will do our best to allow your child to remote into the classroom if they are feeling well enough to do so. If your child is in a classroom that no longer has students remoting in, we may not be able to accommodate remote instruction immediately, however.

We do understand that especially as we enter allergy season, it may be challenging to determine whether your child is experiencing the beginning of COVID-19, or not. (I believe we've all had a moment over the last year where we've wondered if a headache or sniffles is the beginning of COVID.) We do not want to ever compromise the safety of our in-person students or staff.

Some important notes:

- If your child is sick, please keep them home and resting and *not* remoting in.
- If you are unsure of whether your child is beginning to exhibit COVID symptoms, please notify the school and keep them home.
 - If your child feels well enough to participate, and is in a classroom/classes where students are already learning remotely, it should not be problematic for them to temporarily join the remote students. Please contact your child's teacher.
 - However, if your child's classroom does not currently have students learning remotely, a teacher may not be able to automatically provide remote instruction. It takes a significant amount of work to move from an in-person to virtual model. In this instance, teachers will work with students the way they have in previous years to make up instruction for that day.
- The ability to remote in is *not* an option for in-person families who want to take a long weekend (e.g. remoting in from the shore or other vacation spot), or want to keep their student home because of a sporting event.
- If a student wants to participate in an after-school activity, and has chosen the in-person option, they need to be in class that day in order to participate.

This school year has required us to quickly reinvent a lot of ways in which we do things. We very much appreciate your understanding and patience as we continue to work through this. We know this hasn't been easy and we're grateful for your support for our students and staff.

As always, please contact me and your principal with questions.

Dr. Jim Scanlon, Superintendent