



WORTHINGTON SCHOOLS

Responsible Restart Plan

Worthington Schools has established general principles that will guide us as we move forward with reopening our schools. We will implement safety protocols to the highest degree possible for our students and staff. In complete transparency, there is some level of risk present when everyone returns to school. Our number one priority remains the safety and well-being of our students and staff. We will be developing plans for each of our buildings, and these details will be shared with you prior to the start of school. Your support is truly appreciated as we plan for a safe opening for the upcoming school year.

These are the general principles that will guide Worthington Schools as we move forward with the reopening of our schools:

- 1 Worthington Schools will work closely with the [Columbus Public Health Department](#) and the [Franklin County Public Health Department](#) to promote safety in each school building. In the event we have a confirmed case of COVID-19, we will work with the Health Officials to implement the appropriate steps.
- 2 Worthington Schools will be transparent with all stakeholders that some level of risk will always be present when children and school district employees occupy school district facilities.
- 3 Worthington Schools recognizes the need for consistency in areas of operations while recognizing that individual differences in classroom sizes, school facilities, and building operations may lead to some differences in practices.
- 4 We are currently planning to open schools with a remote schedule on the start date of Monday August 31, 2020, but we will continue to evaluate our school calendar as new information becomes available.
- 5 School staff will be required to report their temperatures and any symptoms daily. We ask parents/guardians to self-assess their child's health conditions prior to sending them to school.
- 6 Face coverings will be required when children are attending classes in school buildings.

Worthington Schools Face Covering Protocols



Students K-12

Masks are required on the bus, in the hall, and in classrooms. When students are appropriately spaced in a classroom, the teacher may allow mask breaks.

Staff

Masks are required in the hall and in classrooms with students. When students are appropriately spaced, the teacher may remove the mask while wearing a face shield.

Parents/Guardians

Families shall provide face coverings as the schools will have a limited supply. Medical exemptions for masks will be considered with written documentation from a physician.

Remote Learning vs. Face-to-Face Learning



UPDATED PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE (7/28/20)

- School and local health officials will meet weekly to review community and school trends and provide recommendations on school-based options.
- Local health officials will use a variety of data points when making recommendations for transitioning between hybrid and enhanced distance learning.
- Local health officials recommend nothing less than 6 feet of physical distancing for any in-person learning option during the pandemic.

All plans are subject to change based on evolving conditions, data about the status of the pandemic, and recommendations or guidance from public health authorities and the scientific community.

Ohio COVID-19 Risk Level Guidelines for the Public

FRANKLIN COUNTY
COVID RISK LEVEL 1

FRANKLIN COUNTY
COVID RISK LEVEL 2

FRANKLIN COUNTY
COVID RISK LEVEL 3

FRANKLIN COUNTY
COVID RISK LEVEL 4

Public Emergency

Active exposure and spread.

Follow all current health orders.

Public Emergency

Active exposure and spread.

Exercise high degree of caution. Follow all current health orders.

Public Emergency

Very high exposure and spread.

Limit activities as much as possible. Follow all current health orders.

Public Emergency

High exposure and spread.

Only leave home for supplies. Follow all current health orders.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS DO NOT RECOMMEND ALIGNING SCHOOL-BASED OPTIONS TO THIS SYSTEM

Corresponding Worthington Schools School-Based Instruction Options

All-In Schedule:

All staff and students report to school daily for instruction while following enhanced hygiene protocols.

Hybrid Schedule:

Half of the school's student population will be in attendance every school day.

Remote Schedule:

All students and staff are assigned to work/learn from home.

During the "All-In" Schedule



All staff and students report to school daily for instruction.

All staff and students follow enhanced hygiene protocols including: face covering protocols, frequent hand washing/sanitizing, covering mouth and nose when sneezing and coughing, staying home when ill for any reason, having a temperature at or above 100 degrees, or experiencing any symptoms of the COVID-19 virus.

Some school practices such as meals, related arts, etc., may be altered to promote student health and safety.

All-Day Kindergarten will operate as normal with the accompanying fee for service. Half-Day Kindergarten will operate as normal on an A/B alternating full-day schedule.

Middle and high school sports determinations will be made with Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) guidance, Ohio Department of Health guidance, and in consultation with City & County Public Health Departments.

Worthington will give strong consideration to an "All In" (formerly called "Green") or typical everyday schedule with increased safety strategies—All staff and students at school with enhanced hygiene practices and other public health precautions. The "All-In" schedule is followed when it is deemed safe for all students and staff to be in daily attendance at the school at the same time with safety practices in place in accordance with Public Health Department guidance.



During the “Hybrid” Schedule

All staff report to school to facilitate learning for assigned student groups.

All staff and students follow enhanced hygiene protocols including: face covering protocols, frequent hand washing/sanitizing, covering mouth and nose when sneezing and coughing, staying home when ill for any reason, having a temperature at or above 100 degrees, or experiencing any symptoms of the COVID-19 virus. Distancing protocols will be followed as nearly to official guidelines as is possible.

Half of the school’s student population will be in attendance every school day; students assigned to “GROUP A” will attend Monday and Wednesday of each week; students assigned to “GROUP B” will attend Tuesday and Thursday of each week. Groups A and B will be designated by the alphabet (A-K for Group A and L-Z for Group B) so families with children in multiple schools are in school on the same days. Families with multiple last names will default to the oldest student in the household’s last name, and individual schools will work as much as possible with families who need to group together for childcare purposes.

On Fridays, Groups A and B will be rotated approximately every other week according to a posted calendar.

ALL Kindergarten students will operate on the A and B schedule. All-Day families will have payment prorated for time not in All-Day, everyday Kindergarten.

All schools will work to facilitate the fullness of district programming, on a reduced schedule and modified learning plan when appropriate, including elementary Related Arts, academic interventions, gifted programming, and instrumental music.

School practices such as meals, related arts, etc., may (will) be altered to promote student health and safety. Parents should expect some changes to current food policies in order to protect students who have food allergies.

To minimize contact and social distancing, students in middle and high schools will not be able to utilize lockers. In addition, school staff at all levels will create signage and instruct students to follow “one-way” hallways when possible. Finally, no field trips and large-group student events will be planned for at least the first semester.

Teachers will engage with students for face-to-face learning on assigned “at school” days, facilitating new learning experiences based on academic standards, and prepare students for independent work on their’ assigned “at home” days. There is no expectation that teachers will connect specifically with students during students’ “at home” days, as teachers will be facilitating face-to-face learning with the other group of students.

Students will work to complete assignments with access to their grade-level learning platform, Seesaw for grades K-5 and Schoology for grades 6-12. In these platforms, students can access a variety of videos, lessons, templates, assignments, virtual tutorials, and other tools to support their “at home” work.

Teachers will be expected to maintain productive communication with families and students using the common learning management systems.

Middle and high school sports determinations will be made with Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) guidance, Ohio Department of Health guidance, and in consultation with City & County Public Health Departments.

Worthington will give strong consideration to a “Hybrid” schedule, or what we formerly called “Yellow.” This is a rotation of at-school and at-home learning days for students. Students will be in attendance at school for face-to-face instruction 50% of the school week and receive practice/independent work to complete AT HOME using Seesaw (PreK-5) and Schoology (6-12).

Attendance at school is counted for attendance, which follows State and Health Department guidelines for operation. There is an expectation for students to complete assignments during the asynchronous, at-home, practice days.

During the “Remote” Schedule



All students are assigned to work/learn from home using our common learning management system. At grades Pre-K to 5, that system is Seesaw; at grades 6-12, the system is Schoology. Students will be expected to “attend” class virtually daily and to complete/turn in assigned work.

New instruction, completed assignments, and student feedback will be delivered to students virtually using the learning management system.

Elementary Teachers will be expected to conduct synchronous (teacher present at the same time as the learners) lessons via the learning management system and video conferencing tools a minimum of three hours per day, five days per week. In addition, teachers will connect with individual students or small groups of students for feedback and tutorials an additional four to five hours each week, as determined by individual learning needs.

Middle and High School Teachers will be expected to provide daily learning and assignments to students per the school calendar. Grading will be based on the traditional, letter grade format.

Middle and high school sports determinations will be made with Ohio High School Athletic Associations (OHSAA) guidance, Ohio Department of Health guidance, and in consultation with City & County Public Health Departments.

Administrators will determine which schedule will be used depending on guidance and information provided by local and state health officials. The move to the “remote” schedule will occur when State or National Levels of COVID-19 necessitate a closure of school(s) in the best interest of the health and well-being of both staff and students.

Worthington Online Learning Academy



We recognize for a myriad of reasons it may be possible that a family decides for their child(ren) not to be present in the school building at any point in the school year, regardless of whether we return in a hybrid or all-in schedule. Students staying home to receive full-time instruction will be set up with online courses through an online service partner, paid for by the District.

Students will be afforded the opportunity to take grade-level appropriate courses provided through an Ohio Online Learning Program (OOLP).

Families have until August 19, 2020 to sign up for OOLP instruction. There is a one semester commitment.

The July 30, 2020 announcement that Worthington Schools will start the year remotely (for at least the first quarter) may impact families' decisions to enroll in OOLP.

If you previously signed up for the OOLP platform and now want to receive Remote instruction with our Worthington teachers, please contact either Patrick Callaghan (Grades PreK-5) at pcallaghan@wscloud.org or Dr. Neil Gupta (Grades 6-12) at ngupta@wscloud.org to be removed from the Ohio Online Learning Program. Please include your child's name, building, and grade level. We will notify your child's school to let them know you are being removed from the online list and ensure you are placed with our Worthington teachers.

Please be aware that we are unsure of what option (All In, Hybrid, or Remote) we will be under moving into the second quarter. Below is more information for consideration:

Elementary Parents:

- If you decide to go with Worthington Schools' remote learning while in "REMOTE," and then switch to OOLP if HYBRID is activated, the transition to the OOLP mid-stream may be difficult and challenging for elementary aged students, especially Grades K-3.
- The classes we offer remote are based on Ohio Learning Standards, as are those at OOLP. However, the format and the curriculum materials, not to mention the pacing, may be entirely or very different—adding to the challenge of changing mid-stream).
- Moving to the OOLP, there is no planned ongoing connection to the class working in hybrid.
- Moving to OOLP once the semester has started may mean that your student missed tutorials for navigating the classes with OOLP, and having not worked the process all along, may be at a deficit.
- Students moving back to OOLP if remote ends in Worthington Schools in favor of HYBRID, will have missed the pacing, instruction and materials that the OOLP provided up to that point. There would be little way to revisit or regain all of that material.

It MAY be best, if your overall desire is to NOT attend classes in person in Worthington during the conditions of this pandemic, to decide to go OOLP, all in, so as not to interrupt or disconnect your student's learning.

Secondary Parents:

- [OOLP Course List](#)
- Similar to our previous communication, we will not charge families for this option, unless they do not complete any courses or start in the program and then stop at any point. The cost of the semester program for grades 7-12 is \$250 per semester course, or \$1,250 per semester (5 semester classes).

- Not all classes that we offer in our Worthington Schools have a comparable online class in the Worthington Online Learning Academy (i.e., Family and Consumer Science courses, Art courses, AP Chemistry, IB classes, etc.). Therefore, credit for the first quarter cannot be counted toward the child's transcript or GPA. Please review the Course List linked above to view the courses available.
- The district made a decision for students who participate in the Online Academy to still participate in band, choir, orchestra, and College Credit Plus classes at school. Students will not be able to participate in AP or IB classes at school.
- Students will be given a pretest for each online course to determine which sections can be excluded based on prior knowledge or mastery. Students will have until January 18, 2021 to complete the semester courses.

In mid-November, we will be providing information to families with a registration for second semester classes. We realize this is a difficult situation in planning for each family based on health and safety concerns and needs.

In order to accommodate family requests, as well as provide advanced notice to our schools, families need to complete the [No School Attendance Form](#) by August 19, 2020 to provide the necessary information and planning to assist each student.

- [OOLP Informational Flyer](#)
- [K-5 Student & Family Information](#)
- [6-12 Student & Family Information](#)
- Click on this link to watch our recorded webinar:

[OOLP Family Information Night](#) .

Sutter Park Preschool



In order to open and operate under current preschool licensing rules and regulations, Sutter Park Preschool and the Early Childhood Program for Worthington Schools will follow guidelines set forth by the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS), as well as working collaboratively with the local health department and the Worthington School District.

All adults will be required to wear face coverings within the building.

Masks are encouraged in all preschool classrooms.

Sutter Park Option A: If the current pandemic preschool/childcare ratio of 1 adult to 9 preschool-aged children set forth by the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services remains in place, only students identified on an IEP will attend Sutter Park to receive specialized services. These students will attend four, half days per week during their assigned time.

Sutter Park Option B: If the current pandemic childcare ratio is lifted and preschool/childcare centers can resume normal operating ratios, both peer role models and students on IEPs will attend Sutter Park four, half days per week during their assigned time.

Should the district need to go to the "Red" or full remote schedule, preschool students will receive instruction and services remotely through Seesaw and other virtual means.

Classroom Occupancy

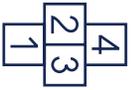


Worthington Schools will decrease the likelihood of infection with hygiene, cleaning, and safety procedures, but being in a public place has a certain level of risk that cannot be eliminated.

Classroom occupancy will be determined based on differences in classroom sizes, school facilities, and building operation level (Hybrid or All-In).

Each classroom will be equipped with hand sanitizers.

Recess



Schools will make every effort to maintain consistency while following safety procedures. This may mean that schools will limit student access to certain pieces of playground equipment and restrict activities that are “high touch” and difficult to clean or maintain social distancing.

We will work toward “structured” recess activities, such as nature walks, that will encourage less physical contact with others. Dressing appropriately for weather is a critical concern—as any day that it is dry/dry enough, and/or 20 degrees or higher, we will plan to take students outdoors for recess activity.

Students must sanitize their hands after recess.

Visitors/Volunteers/Parties



There are different levels of school visitors, and the building administrator will make decisions for each situation. Visitors are discouraged from being in school facilities without an appointment. All visitors are required to wear a face covering. Safety protocols, such as a temperature check, will be implemented for all visitors. We encourage everyone to conduct business via phone, email, or other technology sources when possible.

At elementary schools, there will not be classroom parties as in the past. Further plans are still being discussed. School volunteers will not be used, or significantly limited in their use at the discretion of the administration.

Food Service



We will offer food service. Logistics will be determined by building to minimize risk. In the interest of every child’s safety, our schools will be completely “nut free”, which includes asking parents who pack lunches NOT to include nut products of any kind in their lunch planning.

Transportation



Worthington Schools will allow only one student per seat (unless they are siblings) when operating in a hybrid schedule.

Transportation will attempt to seat siblings together. Seating charts are required to assist with contact tracing, as needed.

Communication



Communication regarding staff or students who test positive for COVID-19 will be issued following the recommendations from the [Columbus Public Health Department](#) and the [Franklin County Public Health Department](#) while maintaining privacy according to FERPA and HIPAA guidelines.

