

Return to School Plan

Fall 2020 / 2021



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Introduction

Dear Parents,

The staff at WAY Academy has been working hard to make sure we construct a plan that works to provide the maximum amount of flexibility and safety for staff and students this upcoming school year. We have created a Coronavirus Task Force to oversee our planning. The Task Force decisions around reopening are all guided by the latest recommendations provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and orders from state and local governments. Given the uncertainty around cases of COVID-19 in our community we will continue to evaluate and adjust our safety plan as necessary, as well as, the amount of days the physical building is open.

At this point it is expected that all schools will open with safety protocols and reduced time in our physical buildings. Our plans for reopening are detailed below. Please rest assured learning will **“never stop”** at WAY Academy even if we are required to close our physical buildings again. Keep in mind that as a member of WAY Academy, your child has the convenience, comfort and flexibility to move fully online if needed.

WAY Academy has been perfecting a Blended Learning Model since 2013. Many other schools are just beginning to research and experiment with this model. Our experience and HERO curriculum assures your child will be fully supported by teaching and administrative staff on the days they are working from home. Please take time to read the details below on our reopening plan.

I look forward to an amazing school year in spite of any challenges that may lay ahead. Together, we can keep each other safe and assure our young people receive the quality education they deserve.

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2020/2021

School Opening Daily Schedule

- **Newly** enrolled students will come into the physical building during scheduled times in August to be trained on our learning model.
- **Currently** enrolled students will return to the physical building for regularly scheduled lab times beginning **Tuesday, September 8, 2020**. The days students are scheduled to attend lab will increase/decrease as we continue monitoring recommendations by the CDC, state, county, and city government. You will be contacted to arrange day(s) that work best for you and your child(ren). Our hope is to eventually return to our 4 day a week lab schedule for all students, exempting those who choose to be 100% virtual.
- Students in need of face-to-face support before September 8, 2020 should contact the school to schedule a time to attend .

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Health and Safety Protocols

Any in-person activities, whether school-based or in central offices, will be conducted with the following guidelines, all in alignment with the most recent CDC guidance:

- Training for employees and students that promote behaviors to reduce the spread of the virus.
- Daily temperature checks and health screens for employees and students upon entry at the physical building(s).
- All staff will be required to affirm they are not experiencing Covid-19 symptoms prior to entering a building or office space.
- Each morning, students will be screened for fever and symptoms prior to entry and those who are experiencing symptoms will be directed to the isolation area.
- An “isolation area” will be designated at all school buildings and open offices so that anyone who experiences Covid-19 symptoms or feels unwell, can be isolated from others while additional steps are taken to seek care.
- Promotion of mitigation practices such as staying home when sick.
- Practicing hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette (including hand washing with soap and water regularly).
- Supply of disinfectant wipes, portable hand sanitizer dispensers readily available throughout the school.
- Plexiglass barriers installed at frequently visited spaces to create a point of contact with protection.

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- **Required face coverings when physical distancing is not possible. WAY Academy will provide basic masks for students and staff. Individuals may also bring their own face coverings.**
- Employees whose role may require additional personal protective equipment (e.g. face shields and gloves) based on their job duties, will have those items provided to them.
- Posted signs throughout buildings promoting safe practices.
- Regular cleaning and disinfecting daily. Our buildings will be deep cleaned twice a week for extra precaution.
- Proper ventilation and increased air circulation (e.g. opening doors and windows where possible).
- Limiting the sharing of objects and supplies.
- Rearranging seating in classrooms and offices to allow for 6 feet of space, where possible.
- Food consumption in smaller, controlled settings (e.g. classrooms) or on staggered meal schedules. Possibly grab and go meals for lunch.
- Limiting of non-essential visitors and volunteers. All visitors must wear a mask.

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Daily Entry

The district will establish a method to collect information from employees daily about their readiness to attend work. If the employee answers any of the questions in the affirmative, they will be directed not to report to work and to seek the appropriate medical attention. The daily entry survey will ask the following questions (questions may be adjusted to align with public health guidance as necessary):

Are you currently experiencing any of the following symptoms? (Yes/No)

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

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What if a positive case of Covid-19 is confirmed in the District location?

The District will follow CDC guidance on what to do when students and staff exhibit symptoms and when a case is suspected/confirmed. Students or staff who exhibit symptoms will be directed home to self-isolate and seek medical attention, as necessary. Positive or suspected cases will be confirmed with the local Department of Public Health who will assist with developing the recommended next steps based on the level of potential exposure.

Staff and families will be notified if they or a student has been in “close contact” with a confirmed case and will be directed to self-isolate and monitor themselves for potential symptoms. This may result in the temporary closure of school buildings or offices.

At a minimum, in the event of a confirmed case, the District may close off portions of/an entire office or building for a period of 24 hours and allow for additional cleaning/disinfecting before reopening.

Before returning to work in person, anyone who has tested positive for Covid-19 must wait at least 72 hours since symptoms ceased (resolution of fever and improvement in respiratory symptoms) AND 10 days since symptoms first appeared. They must also be re-tested and indicate a negative result before returning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madeline E. Black". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Madeline E. Black

Superintendent of WAY Academies