

# WAHOO ELEMENTARY 2020-2021

## Safety Procedures and Precautionary Measures

We are pleased to welcome students back into our building this August! Please read about our school's plan to do so safely. [You are HIGHLY encouraged to visit our school blog at wahooelementary.weebly.com](#) for answers to your more specific questions.

**Masks:** The district stance of Wahoo Public Schools is to **expect students and staff to wear masks when reasonable and appropriate**. Within our elementary, students are welcome to wear masks throughout the day. However, it will be expected and enforced for all students and staff to wear masks during arrival and dismissal.

**Cohorts:** All staff at Wahoo Elementary are committed to limiting unnecessary interactions and potential exposure among children. To this end, all children will remain in cohorts, as proposed by several health agencies including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Each grade level has been split into “blue” and “gold” cohorts (listed below). Children will have minimal to no exposure with students outside their designated cohort during the school day, including times such as lunch and recess. Children will be allowed to interact and play with peers in their same grade and cohort, but will remain separated from students in other grades and cohorts throughout the day. Social distancing will be encouraged whenever possible, and the use of masks is always welcome. However, these measures will not be enforced during cohort time due to limited square footage in each classroom and the difficulty our young students may have keeping a mask on for prolonged times.

***\*\*\*At times when keeping cohorts apart is unworkable, such as arrival and dismissal, students and staff are expected to wear masks. Social distancing is expected when possible.***

Kindergarten <b>BLUE</b>	Stukenholtz		3rd Grade <b>BLUE</b>	Carlson
	Fletcher			Nelson
Kindergarten <b>GOLD</b>	Gregg		3rd Grade <b>GOLD</b>	Barry
	Beaver			Christen
1st Grade <b>BLUE</b>	Sherman		4th Grade <b>BLUE</b>	Gigstad
	Meyer			Pearson
1st Grade <b>GOLD</b>	Ficenec		4th Grade <b>GOLD</b>	Kramer
	Christensen			Shada
2nd Grade <b>BLUE</b>	Cooper		5th Grade <b>BLUE</b>	Anderson
	Holtorf			Thrasher
2nd Grade <b>GOLD</b>	Lindstrom		5th Grade <b>GOLD</b>	Cook
	Dwerlkotte			Dobesh

**Arrival & Morning Routines:** All elementary students will enter through the main (west) entrance and immediately report to lines for health screening. Each line will be designated by grade level, with visual cues to remind children to stand 6 feet apart.

Upon passing the health screen, each child will go immediately to his/her classroom where he/she will remain in a **cohort** of students for the remainder of the school day. When a child does NOT pass the health screen, parents will be immediately contacted for pick-up. Staff will provide supervision, as well as enforce use of masks and social distancing until the child's transportation arrives. The child will not proceed to his/her cohort. **Note:** As in years past, breakfast will be available to students. Children can take a "Grab 'n Go" breakfast as they leave the health check area and proceed to their classroom. "Morning clubs" will not take place this school year.

**Assemblies & Special Events:** There will be no school wide assemblies throughout the course of the year. We plan to offer fun events and supplemental learning opportunities for students to enjoy in cohort groups instead of mass gatherings. For the time being, all field trips have been suspended. Future considerations will be made by the school principal.

**Visitors:** Traditionally, visitors and community volunteers are encouraged to visit us at Wahoo Elementary. During the upcoming school year all visits from non-school personnel, including parent visits, must be approved by the principal in advance. Parents will not be allowed to join children for lunch until further notice. Each approved visitor will log his/her full name, destination within the school, and time in/out for the purposes of prevention, as well as tracking and tracing potential exposures. The goal is to protect the fidelity of our cohorts and keep children safe.

**Cleaning & Sanitizing:** In addition to cleaning procedures already in place, common facilities and equipment (including restrooms, drinking fountains, outdoor playsets) and shared classrooms (including gym, library, special education classrooms) will be sanitized between each cohort, or hourly at a minimum.

Staff will continue to monitor the handwashing practices of our students. We are fortunate to have a facility that is laid out in such a way as to allow staff to teach and monitor handwashing throughout each day, especially after restroom breaks. Our school will continue to provide hand sanitizer and require its use at times when hand washing isn't an option, such as outdoors. Our Operations and Safety Team will post signage provided by the CDC throughout the building. These "kid-friendly" posters remind children of the importance of washing hands.

**Transitions:** Transition times in hallways have been staggered to the greatest degree possible to avoid interaction between cohorts.

**Lunch:** An alternate lunch schedule has been created for 2020-2021. The schedule allows for only one grade in the cafeteria at a time, with longer designated sanitation breaks between each lunch rotation.

- Hands-free line: The school's fingerprint system for charging lunch has been replaced with a tag/scanner method. Each child will wear a lanyard to be scanned as he/she proceeds through the lunch line, and this will be color-coded by cohort. All self-service lunch options (salad bar) have been removed from this year's menu.
- Spacing: Because the use of masks is impossible during lunch, students will social distance during the lunch line, using dots that have been adhered to the floor. Each dot is at least 6 feet apart from others and the process will be monitored by homeroom teachers. Once seated, there will be an empty seat between each child and his/her peers. Only children of the same cohort will sit with one another.
- Trays/Utensils: Trays and utensils will be disposable until such time that COVID-19 is no longer a viable concern. Per state regulation, disposable water cups will remain available during meals.
- Considerations: Because this process will be rapid and require a high level of supervision, you are encouraged to pack a cold lunch for your child. Doing so will mean your child can "skip" the line and spend more time eating before being dismissed for recess.

**Recess:** Each playground will be split into two distinct areas. Only one grade will use each playground at a time, and each cohort will be kept in separate areas from one another. Our west playground will be one distinct play area, and the Outdoor Classroom will be a distinctly separate play area. Our east playground, made up of the basketball court and new playset, will be kept separate from the open field area.

Each cohort will have their own equipment (balls, jump ropes, etc.), which will be kept separate from other cohorts. Students will sanitize/wash hands immediately upon entering the building after recess.

**Direct Exposure, Defined:** Based on guidance from Three Rivers Public Health Department, direct exposure (not including contaminated surfaces) carries a strong likelihood of passing COVID-19 exists when:

- Social distancing is not practiced (an infected party is within 6 feet of another for 15 minutes or more), and
- Masks are not used, or
- Bodily fluid (such as saliva) from an infected party comes into contact with another

Wahoo Elementary will cooperate in avoiding direct exposure, as well assist health officials in tracking/tracing prospective cases of COVID-19 using these parameters. It is noteworthy that our schoolwide schedule has already been adjusted in such a way as to avoid interactions altogether. (For questions/concerns regarding potentially contaminated surfaces, see "**Cleaning & Sanitizing**" section.)

**Shared Staff:** Many of our staff members work with students in multiple cohorts. These staff members will wear masks consistently to avoid exposure and maintain the fidelity of our school's cohort model.

**Parent Notification:** In the event that a child or staff member within a cohort is positively identified as having COVID-19, parents of each child within the cohort will be notified. Furthermore, the entire cohort will be quarantined from school for 14 days and be provided with remote learning opportunities throughout that time. Sibling(s) of positively identified children will also be quarantined from school grounds. *Note: all communications will comply with HIPA and FERPA stipulations to protect the individual's identity at all costs.*

**Proactive Measures:** On-line Learning Management Systems (LMS) have been purchased for student use. Seesaw will be used for grades Kindergarten-3rd grade. Canvas will be used for 4th-5th grades. Teachers will begin teaching children how to use their LMS within the first week of school. This is being done as a proactive measure so students have familiarity in the event that remote learning is mandated. Both systems complement in-person learning and can be used in the general classroom to support face-to-face learning, as well. More information will be communicated from your child's homeroom teacher.

**Special Considerations:** There are MANY considerations that individual families prepare to face, many of which can not be adequately described or responded to within this document. Beginning during the final week of July, "Frequently Asked Questions" will be answered in text and video format on the **Wahoo Elementary Blog**. Go to **wahooelementary.weebly.com** to access this information or look for notifications that the blog has been updated from our school's Facebook and Twitter feeds.

**Back to School Night: Our annual Back to School Night** is a valuable opportunity for young students and those who are in need of a strong transition back to school. Due to concerns regarding potential COVID-19 exposure, we will offer a more structured approach to this year's event by providing two evening events with assigned time slots based on each family's last name. **Masks will be expected by all parties during the duration of this event.**

*Notes: The building will be completely cleared between each session so disinfecting/sanitizing can take place. If your child is not in need of a transition and is able to carry supplies independently on the first day, you are welcome to sit out of this opportunity.*

Tuesday, August 11th		
5:00-5:30	5:45-6:15	6:30-7:00
Last names <b>A,B,C, D</b>	<b>E, F, G, H</b>	<b>I, J, K, L</b>
Wednesday, August 12th		
5:00-5:30	5:45-6:15	6:30-7:00
Last names <b>M, N, O, P</b>	<b>Q, R, S, T</b>	<b>U, V, W, X, Y, Z</b>

