

School District of West De Pere

400 Reid St, Suite W
De Pere WI 54115
Fax: (920)337-1398



Dennis Krueger

Superintendent
Phone: (920) 337-1393

September 28, 2020

Dear WDP Families and Staff:

After careful consideration and evaluation of our current state as it relates to COVID-19, we have made the difficult decision to temporarily transition to Scenario C, which is our remote learning scenario. This transition will take place beginning on October 1 as delineated below. It is our goal to be able to return to Scenario A (in-person learning) beginning October 19; however, this is dependent on our community health situation which impacts the success of both our mitigation plans and school operations.

We couldn't be more proud of our students, staff, and families as we have experienced a very positive first month of school. We were able to safely provide students with exceptional experiences and witnessed extraordinary behaviors from our beloved students. We will continue our commitment to students and families as we navigate our way through this pandemic.

We are deeply saddened by our need to change course at this time. It is believed that due to unsafe behaviors within the greater community, the community is experiencing an exponential spread of COVID-19. Because of this, we are also finding it difficult to maintain adequate staffing levels within the School District of West De Pere. Local health care leaders have stated that "not a single instance of community spread has been due to schools being open." Rather, it is the spread of the virus outside our schools that is putting the safety of students and staff at risk. We believe that schools can be a very safe place for our children, however, guidance from our local healthcare leaders makes it clear that even exceptional COVID-19 mitigation plans in schools will not withstand the levels of spread we continue to see in our communities. Additionally, hospitals are nearing capacity and emergency departments are continuing to experience overcrowding.

Our hope is that those in the community will work together to mitigate the spread, thus lessening the burden on our healthcare systems. We need everyone's help in returning to in-person learning. Please continue to wear face coverings, practice social distancing, avoid large gatherings, wash your hands, and remain home when sick.

We have planned for this scenario and are ready to make the transition. It is our intent to return to in-person instruction on Monday, October 19. Other factors, such as community spread, staffing capacity, and local hospitalization capacity will influence the District's decision to resume in-person instruction on October 19 or to extend remote instruction.

Transition timeline: 4K - 12

- September 29 - 30: Current schedule

- October 1 - 2: Students at home; no formal instruction; teachers and students prepare for remote learning
- October 5: Remote learning begins as outlined in Scenario C of the district plan. (See website for details.)

Other important information to note:

- Free breakfast and lunch for all students, ages 18 and under, will continue to be available for pick up, beginning on Thursday, October 1, as follows:
 - Westwood: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. for daily pick-up
 - Hemlock Creek: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. for daily pick-up
 - Quarry Park: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for daily pick-up
 - Patriot Park: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for daily pick-up
 - Nicolet Townhomes: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for daily pick-up
 - High School: Thursdays from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. for bulk pick up (Bulk pick-up must be requested in advance. Please see the Food Service website for details.)
- Students previously enrolled in our remote option will continue in their current program.
- All co-curricular activities will be cancelled during this time, beginning on Thursday, October 1.
- Please continue to notify your child's attendance office if your child tests positive for COVID-19 or needs to quarantine because he/she is considered a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Families of students who are identified as close contacts will receive a separate phone communication with details on quarantine, along with a follow-up letter.

Further updates will be forthcoming from our principals and teachers regarding daily student schedules as we transition over the upcoming days. Thank you in advance for your grace and understanding as we continue together through this journey.

Together with Pride and Excellence,

Dennis Krueger
Superintendent