

Dear Kindergarten, Primary & Intermediate Center Parents/Guardians,

We would like to welcome you back to the 2020-2021 school year. Obviously, this year will be much different than in the past. The decision to move to a virtual learning platform was not an easy one and certainly has dramatically changed our planning.

This letter contains very important information for you and your child(ren) as we start the new year. Please consider this document to be an addendum to the Student Handbook for the 2020-2021 school year.

Please review this information and if you have any questions please feel free to reach out to your child(ren)'s Guidance Counselor or building Principal.

Chromebook, Textbook, Instructional Materials

We will distribute a Chromebook to your child along with other needed instructional materials in order for them to access their virtual learning platform. Information about Chromebooks and materials being distributed will be announced in the upcoming days. Families will be given tutorial information about the Chromebooks when they are picked up. Additional information is also available on the WA Website under the Students and Parents sections.

Virtual Instruction

Teachers will be presenting interactive, live streamed lessons on a daily basis for each of your child(ren)'s classes. The Kindergarten, Primary and Intermediate Center will operate on the normal school day schedule. Students will be expected to be in their homeroom or the Principal's Google Classroom by 8:50 A.M. Class/Daily schedules will be posted to their Google Classroom by their homeroom teacher.

Attendance and participation for virtual learning is required. Attendance will be taken by the student(s) Homeroom/Google Classroom Teacher. There will be "brain" breaks throughout the day scheduled by the teachers. All classes will include a daily activity assignment that may or may not be graded to assist with tracking attendance and participation (except for Homeroom and Intervention at the Intermediate Center).

In addition, students will have a 60 minute block of time for lunch and recess that is built into their schedule.

We understand that there may be families with different schedules and accessing the live virtual instruction may be difficult, please make sure to view your child(ren)'s teacher's Google Classroom page for recorded lessons, assignments, resources, and activities when it is convenient. All assignments for K-6 students must be completed by 11:59 P.M. Sunday for the previous week.

Student Learning Environment

We are expecting students to be dressed and presentable for their live lessons. Students should adhere to the Wyoming Area School District Dress code by having pants and shirts on at all times; pajamas and non-compliant shirts are not permitted during Google Meet sessions. Students must keep their web cameras on at all times during the Google Meet sessions, they are not permitted to display profile pictures or avatars during live sessions.

We are also requesting that parents establish a student work space within the home that has a table and chair. Students should not be accessing Google Meet while in bed or other areas of the house that are not conducive to learning. Finally, please limit any distractions that may interfere with learning such as pets, siblings, cellphones, televisions and other electronic devices. Having a pair of headphones or earbuds is recommended to help make communication on Google Meet easier and can assist in limiting distractions.

We are asking that parents/guardians do not interrupt teachers during virtual instruction sessions. Further, taking pictures and/or recording virtual instruction sessions by the student and/or family is not permitted. Each teacher will be recording their lessons each period/class and posting the recordings to each Google Classroom. There may be a delay between the end of the class period and when recordings are posted to the Google Classroom.

Just like in normal classroom situations, student participation and appropriate behaviors are critical to the success of all students. If a student becomes a distraction or creates a disruption of the virtual learning environment, they will be removed from the Google Meet by the teacher and the parent/guardian will be contacted to discuss the situation.

Google Classroom, Meet, Google Suite

Google classroom will also serve as a learning management system for teachers and students. Teachers will post assignments, activities, projects, assessments, etc. and students will submit work and communicate with teachers through the Google Classroom platform. All students have their Wyoming Area Google Account to access the Google Education suite, which includes Google Classroom, Google Meet, and a variety of other applications. We strongly recommend that students utilize the Chromebook supplied by the district, so that all applications are readily available for them.

Attendance

Student attendance has always been a vital part of success in school and in a virtual platform it is even more important. Students are expected to attend their Homeroom/Google Classroom on a daily basis. Attendance will be taken by the student(s) Homeroom/Google Classroom Teacher.

Students and parents/guardians should be aware that changes to the Pennsylvania Compulsory Attendance Law, all students under the age of 18 are required to attend school. Students who are frequently absent will face truancy proceedings. Parents/guardians must submit excuses for students when they are absent from virtual learning. A process will be developed to submit excuses electronically.

All classes will include a daily activity assignment that may or may not be graded to assist with tracking attendance and participation. This daily activity assignment needs to be completed by 8PM each day in your homeroom class or Google Classroom teacher.

Grading

All grades used to calculate the end of marking period and end of course grades will be posted in the CSIU Gradebook. Additional Information about grading procedures and assignment due dates will be posted by each teacher. Letter grades will be assigned for all classes at the Elementary Buildings for each marking period.

As previously stated, all classes will have a daily activity assignment that may or may not be graded to assist with tracking attendance, participation and understanding of content.

School Calendar

It is important that students and families know that the school calendar has already been established for the 2020-2021 school year. Dates that are already scheduled as early dismissals and holiday closures will remain. The district will be submitting for approval from PDE to utilizing up to five (5) Flexible Instructional Days (FIDs) to account for closures due to weather.

Asynchronous Learning

We understand that some families will have difficulty accessing our virtual learning during the regular school hours. If you have a situation where your child needs to work asynchronously (outside the normal school hours) please contact the appropriate elementary school as soon as possible so that we can make arrangements and notify teachers so that we can accurately track your child(ren)'s attendance and participation. We will attempt to be as flexible as possible with asynchronous learning, however we would request that families who are choosing asynchronous learning commit to that mode for the entire marking period and we would prefer they commit either a half day (morning or afternoon) or full day increments.

Students accessing asynchronous classwork will have to view the recorded lessons for each class on their schedule and complete the daily assignment, along with other assessments, projects, homework, etc, assigned, to be marked present for the day. All assignments for K-6 students must be completed by 11:59 P.M. Sunday for the previous week.

Students can utilize Google Classroom and email to communicate with teachers. Teachers will return emails as soon as possible. We ask students and families to remember that the teacher work day is from 8:35 am to 3:35 pm during the school year.

PSSA

The PSSA were cancelled in the spring of 2020. Students will not have to make those exams up. At this time, PSSA Exams are still scheduled for grades 3-6 in April 2021.

Thank You in advance for your cooperation and flexibility during this unprecedented time. Our Administration, Faculty, and Staff have been working diligently to be prepared for the start of 2020-2021 school year. Please be understanding as we begin the year, we have attempted to plan contingencies for as many scenarios as possible, however, please be aware that we may experience some glitches as we launch this new virtual platform. We will endeavour to resolve all issues we encounter as quickly as possible.

Please enjoy the remainder of your summer vacation and we look forward to the first day of school on September 8, 2020.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Pepsin, Kindergarten Center Principal- 570-655-2146
David Pacchioni, Primary Center Principal- 570-693-1914
Brian Strazdus, Intermediate Center Principal- 570-654-1404