Willow Creek Academy
2020 Fall Reopening Update

Parent Coffee

08.14.20
The Spring / Summer 2020 Rollercoaster

- **March 16**
  - Bay Area Shelter in Place ordered though April

- **March 30**
  - Online school ordered through end of school year

- **April 15**
  - Governor announces 6 Indicators for lifting restrictions

- **April 18**
  - Black Lives Matter Protests begin

- **May 15**
  - CDC Releases Guidelines for returning to school

- **May 18**
  - Crossing the Bridge (online)

- **June 12**
  - MCOE releases guidance for reopening calling for normal class sizes

- **June 18**
  - Governor puts Marin on watchlist due to recent spikes

- **July 3**
  - MCOE releases revised guidance for Phased Reopening starting with distance learning

- **July 12**
  - June 30th First Joint Board Study Session re: Unification

- **July 14**
  - July 14th Third Joint Study Session re: Unification

- **July 15**
  - July 15th Fourth Joint Study Session re: Unification

- **July 21st**
  - July 30th Unification Town Hall

- **July 28th**
  - July 28th Bond Committee Meeting

- **July 30th**
  - Unification Town Hall

- **Aug 12**
  - New MCOE Guidance

- **Aug 26**
  - School Re-Opens Distance First
Willow Creek Academy
Marin County
Guidance
California Guidelines

California Dept of Public Health
California Dept of Education

• Criteria for School Opening and Closures
• Dynamic Response
• Monitoring

Marin County Health Department
Marin County Office of Education

• Start with remote Learning (as of 7/15)
• Phased Re-opening after September with small select cohorts on campus provided off the watch list
• Social Distancing, Face coverings for all
• Daily Screening
• PPE provisions
• Cleaning and Sanitization Protocols
• Demonstrate ability to pivot btw states

WCA Guiding Principles & Planning Implications

• Equity and Access to Continuous Learning
• Campus Capacity
• Family and Staff Climate
• Nutrition and Food
• Fiscal Constraints
• Staff Constraints
• Unification

Current Guidance (July 15)

• Social Distancing, Face coverings for all
• Daily Screening
• PPE provisions
• Cleaning and Sanitization Protocols
• Demonstrate ability to pivot btw states

WCA Reopening Plan

Marin County Guidance

Willow Creek Academy
A continuum of responses required depending on State and County health guidance

- Start school on **August 26th** in fulltime distance learning mode

- WCA applying for **waiver** from the State for grades K-6 to bring prioritized groups back to campus. Need less than 19 cases per day for 2 weeks before consideration

- **Community Learning Hubs** in Marin City and Sausalito for high needs students

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**Distance**

- Small Select Sanitary Cohorts (1:15)
- 3 Week Rotating A/B Schedules
- Middle School moves to block scheduling
- No cohort mixing; larger MS cohort groups
- Social Distancing
- Full PPE for all teachers and students
- Enhanced Cleaning & Sanitization
- Remote Instruction only if requested
- Continuous Remote Learning Option

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**Hybrid**

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**Full On-Campus**

- Fulltime on-campus learning for most students with appropriate health and safety measures
- Continuous remote learning option
Reopening Plan Highlights: **High to Moderate Restrictions**

**High Restriction**

**Distance First:** Phased Reopening beginning with **Remote Learning through September**

- Delayed school **start until Wednesday August 26th** to allow teachers an extra week to prepare for both online and in-person instruction
- ‘Day in the Life’ distance learning curricula and schedule being developed during staff PD 8/13 – 8/25 with input from
- **Community Learning Hubs** set up in Marin City and Sausalito to support high needs kids

**Moderate Restriction**

- When Marin County conditions improve, we will likely with **smaller sanitary cohorts** of up to 15 kids per cohort,
- This will be predicated on a **tri-weekly rotational schedule**. We will first phase in and prioritize on-campus full time instruction for those who received a "no mark" at the end of the year and/or whose family circumstance requires on-campus instruction for their children.
- Remote Learning option continues for those with continued health concerns. Community Learning Hubs can continue for rotating groups
- If conditions worsen and guidelines change re: shelter-in-place, we will all pivot back to a remote learning model until restrictions are lifted.
What are community learning hubs?

- Modeled on programs in San Francisco and cities throughout U.S. to ensure that underserved students and families get the benefit of pooled homeschooling, socio-emotional support, and recreation at community facilities in Marin City and Sausalito.

- A 94945 partnership, led by Alena Maunder, Jen Conway, and Sarah Aylward:
  - Marin City CSD: Terri Greene
  - Play Marin: Paul Austin
  - Bridge the Gap: Lisa Raffel
  - Sausalito Parks and Rec: Mike Langford, Bryan Vitale
  - Sausalito City Council
Reopening Plan Highlights: Low Restriction

- ‘Normal school’ in which all students whose families are comfortable sending them back to campus can do so.

- Class sizes are traditional but organized into ‘stable cohorts’ throughout the day to minimize exposure across groups and to facilitate tracking and tracing when required.

- All staff and students wear face coverings both in the classroom and outside. 4-6’ social distancing protocols in place throughout.

- Enhanced handwashing, sanitization and cleaning protocols in place – staff, students and custodians

- Arrival and dismissal times are staggered to minimize group interaction and choke points. Bathroom breaks are coordinated as are between class movement and recess.

- Shortened on-campus school day. Elementary School 8:15 - 2:00 PM and the Middle School would run 8:45 - 3:00, with early release on Wednesday at 2:00

- Students whose parents opt to keep them home follow classroom instruction online.
Stakeholder Engagement: Surveys, Action Groups and Parent Coffee Workshops

- 4 Board Updates re: Reopening
- 5 Morning Coffee Presentations & Discussions re: Opening
- 2 Parent / Family Surveys
- 1 Teacher & Staff Survey
- www.willowcreekacademy.org/ landing page with reopening plans, WCA communications and COVID-19 resources
- 3 Action Group Meetings
- 2 Steering Committee Updates to Parents via Blackboard
- Ongoing Coordination meetings with SMCSD
- Coordination with Community Partners
- Parent Calls (Starting week of 8/10 after survey findings)
- Community Partner Meetings
- Staff PD and safety training
Distance Learning: What We Heard
Feedback Loop & Direct Actions

- Provide more direct teacher-to-parent communication
- Provide technology training/workshops for parents
- Provide daily assignment updates in a manner that is easy to understand
- Provide clear guidelines for students as to how to submit their assignments
- Increase the amount of synchronous instruction across all grade levels
- Ensure that parents have student passwords for Google classroom
- Provide a greater level of differentiation – for advanced learners and those struggling*
- Create a compact with clear norms for student participation during remote learning
- Provide more teacher facilitated small group instruction
- Provide more opportunities for student interaction/engagement with one another
- Take daily attendance, conduct regularly scheduled morning meetings across all grade levels with focus on Responsive Classroom / SEL
- Provide more unified schedules across all grade levels
- Assign “study buddies”
- Re-evaluate making “Elective Wednesday” for elementary students only
Core Interventions for At-Risk Students

• This week, WCA staff will make personal phone calls to the families of all students working a grade level below or more in reading or math, or received a no mark/low engagement in the spring semester.

• During 10-day staff PD, teachers (in collaboration with specialists/intervention specialists etc) we will create individual intervention plans for all identified students.

• Individual intervention plans will be communicated with parents and parents will receive regular progress updates.

• All students will be assessed at the beginning of the year remotely, using MAP and other on-line assessment tools to identify additional students at risk.

• Teaching teams will collaboratively review and update student plans bi-weekly.

• Specialists, intervention specialists, assistant teachers, student support staff will contribute as appropriate.

• Monthly student progress reports will be shared at regular board meetings.
Core Interventions: Individual Student Plans

- On-campus small group instruction as allowed
- Community Learning Pods as resource for high needs kids in Marin City and Sausalito
- Small group and 1 on 1 intervention w/ intervention specialist + teacher for ELL/reading and/or math
- Recorded Zoom instruction available for instruction review and/or preview
- Student Engagement: Student voice + choice (Howler, passion projects, assessment, inquiry/PBL)
- Online differentiation tools (video, differentiated text levels, audio, reading comprehension strategy tools)
- Differentiated online reading and math programs with progress tracking (NewsELA, Reading Eggs, DreamBox, No Red Ink etc.) with small group explicit basic skill instruction
- Online “Study Hall” for students needing additional support with work completion
- Support from community partners (10,000 degrees, Bridge the Gap, Marin City Library, etc.)
- SEL support to include positive incentives, study buddies, on-line clubs
- Weekly one-to-one check-ins with student support specialists
WCA Stakeholder Outreach & Engagement

**Students**
- Family survey
- Family Phone interviews
- Student Orientations
- FAQs

**Parents & Caregivers**
- Family survey
- Morning Coffee Zooms
- Action Groups
- Family Phone Interviews
- Board Meetings
- FAQs

**Teachers & Staff**
- Staff Survey
- Teacher and Staff Workshops
- Action Groups
- Blackboard Announcements
- Professional Development
- FAQs

**WCA Board**
- Board Study Sessions
- Head of School Report

**Community Partners**
- Bridge the Gap, Marin Promise, Marin City
- Conscious Kitchens
- Meetings
- Website
- FAQs

**County Officials**
- Weekly calls re: guidance and compliance
- Continuity of Learning Plan

**Civic Partners**
- Board Meetings
- Website
- Civic resource planning
- Press Releases
- Presentations
- FAQs

**SMCSD & BMLK**
- District Board Meetings
- WCA Board Meetings
- Joint Study Sessions
- Unification Town Halls
Curriculum - Remote Learning
Key Themes & Opportunities

• More professional development for teachers in remote teaching
• Incorporation of SEL learning, promote sense of belonging (i.e., daily openers, incentives for students to show up on time)
• More early outreach to families of struggling students
• Build in regular time for intervention
• Reconsider “elective Wednesday”, or make the 5th day small group instruction/intervention
• Provide options for on-line opportunities outside of regular curriculum
• Tech “hotline” for students/families
• After school online opportunities
How is reopening supporting unification?

We continue to collaborate with the district and BMLK around reopening to pave the way for unification in January 2021

- Joint Board Meetings
- Joint curriculum planning
- Joint Professional Development
- Joint community outreach and support
- Joint purchasing and fundraising
- Joint facility planning and preparation
Campus Prep Update

- Student capacity analysis at different cohort sizes
- Room by room and campus site survey with facilities staff and superintendent 7/3
- Identified pinch points and safety mitigation measures
- Identified, catalogued and shared necessary COVID-related work orders items for 7/31 completion
- Validated campus readiness plans (screening stations locations and entries, directional flow, classroom layouts, outdoor classrooms)
- Prepared COVID safety purchasing list
- District cleaning, prep and deferred maintenance
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<td>Hand Sanitizing Stations</td>
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<td>Acrylic Partitions for teacher consultation and counseling</td>
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<td>Campus Level Signage (drop off, social distancing, wayfinding, etc.)</td>
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## Next Steps

### 1. Curriculum & Instruction
- Identify Action Group
- Review best practices for online and in-class instruction
- Identify pinch points
- Review State and County guidelines
- Letter to staff and WCA Community with Steering Committee & Focus Areas
- Evaluate budget landscape

### 2. Social Emotional Wellness
- Identify Action Group
- Review best practices
- Assess issues and opportunities
- ID pinch points & strategies
- ID COVID-related grants

### 3. Facilities, Operations & IT
- Capacity & Schedule Studies
- Meet with District & County
- Enrollment survey
- Parent survey
- Cohort & Schedule Scenarios
- ID pinch points & strategies
- ID pinch points & strategies
- ID COVID-related grants

### 4. Safety & Compliance
- Review State and County guidelines
- ID pinch points
- Modify WCA protocols from CDE and County Guidelines
- Purchase PPE & supplies
- Teacher survey
- Options development
- COVID resource landing page

### 5. Events & Partnerships
- ID action group
- Review existing partnerships
- ID pinch points
- Review State and County guidelines
- ID partnership opportunities
- ID Key WCA community events
- Joint WCA/BMLK events
- ID Key WCA community events
- Joint WCA/BMLK events

### 6. Communications
- Teacher survey
- Parent survey
- Options development
- COVID resource landing page
- Communications protocols
- Communicate cohorts and cohort schedules
- Communicate family options

### 7. Financial & Legal
- Understand budget landscape
- Identify needs & constraints
- Identify COVID-related grants
- ID pinch points & strategies
- Voluntary 2020-21 Budget
- Review CA budget impacts
- Fundraising needs & resources
- ID potential legal issues

### 8. Staff Support & HR
- ID action group
- Identify needs & constraints
- Identify legal issues
- Staff survey
- Review best practices
- Identify individualized needs
- Draft staff support program
- Assess HR issues

### August/Sept
- Site Preparedness Plan
- Site Visit from County
- Upgrade IT infrastructure
- Train staff / custodians
- Train parents and students
- Safety Plan
- Teacher/Staff Training
- Student Training
- Parent training
- Develop Community Events Schedules
- Partnership around distance learning and community hubs
- Parent Opening Handbook
- Prioritize CARE Funding Purchases
- Professional Development
- Implement and train staff
WCA’s Reopening Guiding Principles

1. **Health and Safety** - The health and safety of staff and students is the single highest priority.

2. **Equity & Access** - All students and their families enjoy equal access to the tools they need to be successful learners, at home and at school.

3. **Academic Success** - In-class instruction, assisted by on-line learning tools, provides the most effective, equitable learning environment for WCA students to meet learning objectives and access needed instructional support.

4. **Stable Cohorts** - The core operational structure of WCA school programs is a stable cohort. This structure helps to mitigate the spread of germs, enables health providers to trace contacts in the event of an infection, and isolates the need for potential closures.

5. **Physical Distancing** - For students, the cohort in itself is the physical distancing practice, however, measures must be taken to ensure safe distancing within the cohort itself to the extent practicable (preschool students and some students with special needs are not expected to maintain 4-6ft. distance).

6. **Procedures and Protocols** - Specific safety protocols including daily health screening, temperature checks, restroom use procedures, paths of travel, outdoor recreation activities, substitute procedures, will be carefully planned, implemented, monitored and updated on a regular basis.

7. **Social Emotional Support** - Relationships and in-person connectivity are a critical component of social development for students, teachers and staff.

8. **Flexibility & Transparency** - WCA is ready to act quickly, decisively, and flexibly according to a set of clear protocols that are communicated effectively and responsive to the voices of our community.

9. **Unification** - Return to School planning is conducted in collaboration with District leadership in consideration of school unification and what is in the best interest of all families in the district.