

Windthorst ISD

Return to School Plan
2021

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Return to School Plan with In-person and Remote Virtual Instruction 2020-2021

Windthorst ISD is looking forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday, August 17th. We have been carefully monitoring the COVID -19 spread and have been in constant communication with local and state health authorities, the TEA commissioner of education, other superintendents from around the state, and our local school board to determine the best possible methods for re-opening school for the 2020-2021 school year.

Despite the challenges with COVID-19, Windthorst ISD will continue to provide excellent education services to our students, which will include both in-person and remote learning environments.

The following guidelines will be followed in order to help protect our students and staff and minimize the spread of COVID-19 as we resume instructional activities and student interaction.

There will be a few key differences this year in daily operations. Please see the information below as a quick reference:

- The front doors will be unlocked at 7:15am. Students will not be allowed to enter the building prior to this scheduled time.
- For JH and HS students, if the student is eating breakfast, they will go directly to the cafeteria. Once they have finished eating, they will be dismissed to their 1st period classroom(JH) or foyer(HS).
- For elementary students, they will go directly into Religion rooms or study hall.
- Teachers assigned to morning duty will be in their designated areas at 7:30am.
- No parents/ visitors will be allowed to come into any buildings, including the cafeteria to have breakfast or lunch, or to walk students to their classrooms.
- Due to health precautions, only prepackaged food will be allowed for class snacks, birthday celebrations, or class parties.
- No sharing of food will be allowed in the classroom or cafeteria.

Windthorst ISD has developed the following instructional plan for remote virtual learning for the 2020-2021 school year based off of the guidance from the Texas Education Agency.

Design of Instructional Plan

Windthorst ISD will be offering 2 learning environments: On campus and remote. Parents will choose which option will accommodate their needs best prior to the beginning of the school year. The student will be in the selected pathway for that entire grading period.

For grades PK-2, Windthorst ISD will use SeeSaw as the Learning Management System (LMS) to provide instruction and assignments.

For grades 3-12 Windthorst ISD will Google Classroom as the LMS to provide instruction and assignments.

Attendance will be taken daily based on engagement. The grading system will be the same for remote learning as on campus learning.

More information on how instruction will be delivered can be found in the Asynchronous Plan.

Instructional Information for Families

Windthorst ISD will be implementing instructional practices to provide consistency across learning environments and ensure the safety of students and staff. Regardless of the learning environment: in person or remote, WISD is committed to make certain that all students have an equitable experience and access to high quality instruction.

It is the goal of Windthorst ISD to begin and continue through the year with an in-person learning environment. To effectively accomplish this, we will practice social distancing by separating student desks to the maximum space possible in each classroom and minimizing the amount of contact that each class has with other grade levels.

Virtual learning will be an option for parents to choose if they do not feel safe sending their student to the school campus. Virtual learning will be held accountable to all daily attendance, grade reporting, and discipline standards as students who are participating in-person.

During virtual instruction, students will be expected to check in daily at a designated time for attendance. Students will also be expected to complete and turn in all assignments as required for all classes, both core and electives.

For students in special education, 504, and EL, all accommodations will be followed regardless of the learning environment chosen.

Attendance

Attendance will still be taken for both on campus and remote instruction. The state requirement of 90% attendance in order to receive credit will remain in effect.

Each student participating in remote virtual instruction will be required to check in daily in the LMS and complete assignments as they are posted throughout the day. Students will be following their school schedule. Students who do not check in daily will be counted absent and subject to state mandated truancy laws.

Students will also have a scheduled time designated by the teacher in advance that they will be required to engage with the teacher in order to ensure student progress is met.

Health and Safety Protocols

Healthy hygiene practices will be expected throughout the day by both staff and students. Hand washing guidelines indicate that students should wash hands for at least 20 seconds after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing; before eating, and upon entering classrooms. Breaks will be provided for hand washing. If soap and water are not readily available, sanitizer will be provided.

Students will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms via questionnaire prior to entering the building each week. The screening requirements will be sent out to parents via Facebook and email. Parents will need to complete it prior to the beginning of the school each week. Students will also be visually screened for symptoms by school staff upon entering the building.

Students will be asked to bring a clear water bottle from home as water fountains will be turned off. The school will also provide a water dispenser in the cafeteria for students to refill their bottle if necessary.

Water fountains will not be available for use at any time to help prevent the spread of possible COVID-19.

Windthorst ISD will also ensure that intensified cleaning and disinfection practices are consistently followed. Daily sanitizing will be implemented for high touch areas (doorknobs, handles, fixtures, etc.) with a medical grade sanitizing solution. More frequent monitoring and cleaning of restrooms throughout the day will be done. We have added extra custodial time for this.

Social distancing practices will be followed. Windthorst ISD plans to increase spacing between individuals using strategies such as separation on school buses, posted signs to remind staff and students of 6-foot distances, and arranging desks 6 feet apart and facing in the same direction where appropriate. When possible, students will be restricted from mixing with other classes such as in the hallways during transitions and entering or exiting the cafeteria.

Students will be strongly encouraged to wear a mask in the halls during each passing period, to and from lunch and during break time.

Grading

The adopted grading policy for Windthorst ISD can be found in our student handbook and on the school website. The grading policy will be the same for both on campus and remote virtual instruction. The current grading policy is:

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

Excellent, Satisfactory, Needs Improvement, and Unsatisfactory

Grades 1-12

A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 F = 69 and below

Recess and Morning Break

Each class or grade clusters will have a designated recess time that will be independent of all other classes.

HS break will be divided between the library hall, the foyer, and HS hall.

Technology and Infrastructure

During times of mandated closures, Windthorst ISD will provide students who do not have an instructional device such as a Chromebook or iPad with the appropriate resources to continue with virtual instruction until school resumes. It will be the responsibility of the student/parent to ensure that they have adequate bandwidth and connectivity to be able to successfully participate in remote virtual learning so that the student is not counted absent.

The Acceptable Use Policy will be enforced with these devices and a violation of that policy could result in the denial of use for a school device.

Transportation

Due to the close proximity of bus seats, all students choosing to ride the bus will be required to wear a mask while on the bus. Students will use hand sanitizer when boarding the bus, and immediately hand sanitize when entering the building from the bus. The driver will monitor students as they enter the bus to ensure this safety precaution. Students may remove the mask upon exiting the bus.

Discipline

Should a discipline issue arise during remote virtual instruction, the school reserves the right to hold the student accountable by revoking the privilege of using a school issued device. If the student is a transfer, the school reserves the right to deny the student's transfer.

Food Service

Students will enter the lunchroom one class at a time with appropriate social distancing. Once in the cafeteria, students will be seated at a table with every other seat being left empty.

Parents will be able to pay on student lunch accounts through ezpayschoolpay.com.

Students participating in remote virtual instruction will have access to school lunch at a time designated by the Food Service Director. Meals will be provided through a drive-up service at the school.

Visitors on Campus

All visitors will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms by a WISD staff member prior to entering the building. To help ensure the safety of our students, parents and visitors will no longer be allowed to be in the cafeteria during breakfast or lunch with their students. Students will be dismissed to their cars or the busses. Please remain in your vehicle during pick up and drop off times.

Early Parent Pick-up Procedures and bringing items to your student during the school day

If a parent needs to pick up a student early for any reason, they will need to be buzzed in by the office staff.

If you are bringing an item to your child, please go to the campus office for assistance. The office staff will remotely open the door and you can leave the item on the table provided in the entry way for their specific grade level. There will be no admittance into the office or the main part of the school.

Communication

Windthorst ISD will continue to communicate with surrounding school districts, local and state health authorities, and the Texas Education Agency to monitor the spread of COVID-19. In addition, Windthorst ISD will relay all pertinent information to parents via Facebook, email, the school website to ensure that all stakeholders are aware of current situations.

Extra-curricular Activities

Athletics and extracurricular activities support the goal of providing a well-rounded educational experience for students within the reopening process. Windthorst ISD will follow UIL guidance for physical and social distancing, restricting the size of gatherings for indoor and outdoor spaces, disinfecting equipment, and other health and safety precautions.

Students who choose the remote virtual instructional method **will not** be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities.

Notification of Positive Test Results

If your child has been tested for COVID-19 and received a positive result, please notify the school office at 940-423-6688 as soon as possible.

The school will notify all parents throughout the district of any positive test case upon receiving this notification. (Student names will NOT be released)

Closures/ Quarantine Periods

Windthorst ISD will strive to remain open to the maximum extent possible. However, should we have a need, the school will close for a period of not more than 5 days in order to sanitize and disinfect appropriately. During these closures, all students will continue instruction through virtual methods to ensure that the delivery of elective instruction continues seamlessly.

Parents will be notified of the length of closure deemed necessary by administration.

If a parent wishes to quarantine their student due to possible exposure, that will be allowed; however, once the student has notified the school of self-quarantining, that placement will be in effect for a 2-week period.

Screening Protocols

Staff will be required to complete a self-screening process prior to entering the Windthorst ISD facilities. The district reserves the right to further screen employees at any time based on current state or federal guidelines.

A parent or guardian will be required to screen their children for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending them to school. Parents are asked to take their child's temperature daily. Additional screenings may be conducted during the school day.

Most common symptoms include:

- Fever
- Dry cough
- Tiredness

Less common Symptoms include:

- Aches and pains
- Sore throat
- Diarrhea
- Conjunctivitis
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- A rash on skin, or discoloration of fingers or toes

Serious symptoms:

Difficulty breathing or shortness of
breath Chest pain or pressure
Loss of speech or movement

Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is lab confirmed with COVID-19.

Staff and students should not enter campuses or district buildings if any of the following apply. The individual is:

- Sick or has been sick in the past 14 days. Symptoms to watch for: fever (100⁰ F or higher), cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell.
- Has a confirmed case of COVID-19 or has been in close contact with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19. These individuals must follow all isolation and quarantine guidelines from the local health authority or their physician.
- Has a household member who is awaiting COVID-19 test results, or who is awaiting their own test results.
- Has traveled internationally or on a cruise in the past 14 days. These individuals must follow current CDC self-quarantine recommendations

Teachers will monitor students and refer them to the nurse or school office if symptoms are present.

Isolation Protocols

- For students displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or are feeling feverish, the school nurse will provide an assessment to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home.
- Students who are ill will be separated from their peers.
- Other students will be removed from the classroom and taken to an alternate location on campus (go on a walk outside, move to a different classroom, etc.) so that the classroom can be disinfected.

- If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Schools must close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected.
- Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be permitted to return to school when:
 - o They are fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication;
 - o Improved symptoms (cough, difficulty breathing, etc.);
 - o 10 days have passed since symptoms began.
 - o Provide a negative lab test

Personal Protective Equipment

Schools are required to comply with the governor’s executive order regarding the wearing of masks. At this time, Archer County is exempt from this executive order due to the number of active cases in the county.

This requirement is subject to change.

Face masks will not be required for students or staff while on campus, however, anyone may wear a face mask if they desire, as long as it complies with the dress code rules of no pictures, emblems or writing on clothing or elsewhere that is lewd, offensive, vulgar, obscene, or that advertises or depicts tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or any other substance prohibited under school policy.

Windthorst ISD will enforce the mask order to all students and staff who ride the school bus due to the inability to socially distance. Students may bring their own mask from home.