



The Walton-Verona MIRROR

Superintendent's Note



August 24th marked our first day of school for the 2020-2021 school year. I am sure that I speak for us all when I say that this school year will be one that none of us will ever forget. Our staff, students, parents and community did a fantastic job of ending the 2019-2020 school year in the best possible way given the events in our country and state

since March. I am sure that this year will be no different. We will certainly face challenges returning to in-person instruction, and we may have intermittent closures due to outbreaks of the virus. As a person who likes routines and schedules, like many of you, I am not looking forward to the degree of uncertainty our present situation will present us with. With that being said, I am also confident that our current situation will provide us with unprecedented opportunities.

For several years, our district has lagged behind other districts with respect to the amount of technology we were able to place in the hands of students. Shortly after becoming the superintendent of this fantastic school district, I conducted a survey of our parents. I hoped to gain some insight into how we could work together to make our district even better for our staff, students, and parents. One of the major findings of this survey was the need for additional technology. Several other Northern Kentucky Districts initiated "1 to 1" initiatives that provided a device for every student to enhance their learning experiences. Initiating a 1 to 1 program in our district was such a need that it was placed in our Strategic Plan as one of our major goals. There was a desire to increase the amount of technology

2020-2021 School Calendar

NTI Instruction Begins	Aug. 24 th
Holiday: Labor Day	Sept. 7
Fall Break: Non-Instructional Days	Oct. 12 th -16 th
Professional Development	Nov. 2 nd
Non-Instructional Day	Nov. 3 rd
Non-Instructional Day	Nov. 25 th
Holiday: Thanksgiving Break	Nov. 26 th
Non-Instructional Day	Nov. 27 th
Non-Instructional Days	Dec. 22 nd – 24 th
Holiday: Christmas	Dec. 25 th
Non-Instructional Days	Dec. 28 th – 31 st

NO EARLY RELEASE DAYS

available to students, but the significant initial cost of a 1 to 1 initiative was a barrier. But, we were presented with an opportunity due the COVID-19 pandemic to obtain additional funding through the CARES ACT. These funds, along with additional district funds normally budgeted for the purchase of technology, have enabled us to provide devices for all students in grades 5- 12. In addition, we are now able to issue devices for the elementary students on an as-needed basis. During our Strategic Planning event in the spring of 2018, we created a new vision statement, "To be a world-class school district that balances tradition with innovation". I am very excited that this 1 to 1 initiative will enable us to take a huge step toward making this vision a reality.

In addition to the hundreds of devices now in the hands of students, our staff has been working very hard over the past several months to take advantage of this new capability. When I was a student many years ago, computers were utilized in some classes to learn how to use computers. But, now our work with these devices is

(Superintendent's Note cont...)

to participate in teacher designed learning experiences, conduct independent research, and to demonstrate learning. Our staff understands that providing devices is only half the battle. We must now change how we teach in order to fully take advantage of our new capability. Our teachers and technology department have been working diligently over the past several months to design lessons and learning experiences that challenge students and require their use of these new devices.

Many years ago, one of my mentors told me that nearly every difficult situation that you face will present you with two things: challenges and opportunities. Needless to say, this COVID-19 pandemic has presented us with many challenges, but I am also confident that we have unprecedented opportunities to change how we teach and learn. How we educate students will be forever changed as a result of our current pandemic. We will utilize technology more efficiently and effectively than ever before. Our teachers are getting much better at creating learning experiences for students. Our students will find new ways to take ownership of their own learning and they will create new ways to demonstrate that learning. So, while this year will undoubtedly present us with challenges, I am very confident that we will overcome those challenges. I am even more confident we will take advantages of the opportunities that have been presented to us and that in the end we will be stronger, and more effective at utilizing technology for the betterment of all stakeholders.

PRINCIPAL'S PAUSE – WVES

Luke Patterson, Principal
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Setting the Record Straight

When we started last school year, I was entering my first year as the head principal. I was filled with hope and excitement about the opportunity to continue growing the great achievements of Walton-Verona Elementary. As a principal, when the turn of the calendar year happens is when you begin the planning phases for the following school year. As the calendar turned to 2020, I was excited about what the year would bring - closing up my first year as a head principal with gratitude and planning for the next school year with excitement. At the time, we were starting to hear some things about COVID-19, but it wasn't considered much of a concern. As the news cycle moved through the next couple of months, COVID-19 became a more prominent

headline as it spread across the world until it grew to the point where it was the *only* headline.

When the week of March 9th, 2020 started, I got a call mid-week from our superintendent, Dr. Baker, where he said, "I need you to talk to your teachers and see how quickly they can get ready for students to learn from home." So, I had a brief meeting after school with my teachers, and they blew me away with their dedication and compassion - they were ready. We got word on Thursday that we were not going to have the students return to school the following week - the rest was unknown. On Friday, March 13th, I had a feeling that I wasn't going to see my students again physically in the school for the remainder of the school year, so I prepared a brief announcement of encouragement as the students prepared to leave. My hunch turned into a reality, and the students didn't return for the remainder of the school year.

Something that I really enjoy about my job is the kind of people that are drawn to education. The kind of people that I'm talking about are folks that just love kids. I'm not one to gripe about teacher compensation, but it's certainly not the money that draws or keeps anybody working in education - it's about kids! And so when the students were removed from my building, it stirred up some strong emotions that I had to work through and process along with my staff. We shared many tears while trying to find the silver-lining.

As we approached the start of the 2020-2021 school year, there was a national conversation around whether students would return in person or not. This, like nearly everything else, became politicized as government officials, media members, teacher organizations, and many others chimed in citing study after study, some reliable and some not so much, that fit within their narrative. I'm not here to take a side on that right now. I'm here to take a side for our teachers.

I've seen plenty of news articles, opinion pieces, and social media posts and comments where the blame for not reopening is passed onto the teachers. Headlines from the New York Times that state, "Teachers Are Fearful and Angry Over Pressure to Return," and Twitter posts from people with large followings claiming, "Teachers teach the young and healthy but refuse to teach. Are teachers clever or cowards or both? Stop their \$," – there are countless examples.

I can't speak on behalf of teachers everywhere, but I will speak on behalf of the teachers at Walton-Verona Elementary. We need to set the record straight – our teachers want to teach our students in our school building. They want to see the students smile, see their eyes light up when something they're learning clicks, support them as they go through tough times in life, and (Principal's Pause cont...)

encourage them to be the best they can be. Over the course of the summer, I had many conversations with our teachers and conducted multiple surveys to see what we needed to take into consideration moving into this school year. Not once did I have a conversation or survey result stating that a teacher did not want students to return to our school. In fact, like the spring, I once again shared tears with my staff when the news broke that Governor Beshear recommended schools to start virtually.

I bring this to your attention in the hopes of accomplishing a few things. First and foremost, our WVES teachers need your support and not misdirected blame. They are not happy about the current situation, but I can tell you that they will make the most of it and will do everything in their power to help our students learn. Second, they need to hear from you. We're asking them to continue doing their job despite all the added barriers of the pandemic. A little bit of encouragement goes a long way. And, if you have questions, please reach out! We are dedicated to doing what is within our power to help our students.

Colin Peterson, WVES Asst. Principal
Jessica Iles, WVES Counselor

Important Websites

Kentucky Virtual Library
www.kyvl.org ID: wv#k12
Password: pagedown#21

Kentucky state police sex/criminal offender registry
kpspsor.state.ky.us

Kentucky Department of Education www.education.ky.gov

Walton-Verona Independent Schools
wv.kyschools.us

The City of Walton
www.cityofwalton.org O

Mirror Publications Online
<http://wv.kyschools.us/aboutus/themirror>.

Walton-Verona Elementary School

15066 Porter Road

Verona, KY 41092

(859) 485-4181

Fax: (859) 485-1977

<http://www.wv.kyschools.us/elementary/school/>

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice Asbestos Management Plan for Walton-Verona Schools This notice is being issued to insure that you know that the Walton-Verona Board of Education is in compliance with both national and state regulations and laws that relate to building materials which contain asbestos that have been used in building construction in past years. An inspection for building materials which contain asbestos has been completed for all buildings owned by Walton-Verona Board of Education. This inspection has been conducted by a certified inspector and the material samples were evaluated by an accredited laboratory. Building materials with as little asbestos as one percent (1%) have been identified and made part of a management plan for the school system. A complete asbestos management plan for the school system is on file at the Walton-Verona Board of Education office. Also, a copy of the asbestos management plan for each individual school is on file in each building principal's office. We will continue to notify you at least once each year on the status of the management plan. Should it be necessary, more frequent updates will be issued as a result of an additional inspection, normal surveillance practices, response actions, or remodel work which might disturb building material which contain asbestos. Every precaution will continue to be used to protect the well-being of students and employees of the Walton-Verona Schools.

MATTERS FROM THE MIDDLE- WVMS

Eric Morwessel, Principal
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2020-21 School Year It has been an interesting 5 months since we were last in school.....March 13, 2020. All of our lives changed and we have yet to go back to normal. While the school year will start with Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) it will be, at least, some return to a new normal for students, teachers, staff, and families. One thing that will make students' NTI experiences better than in the spring is that the district was able to purchase enough devices for the middle school to provide every student with one. Also, every teacher in the building will be using Google Classroom as the virtual platform for instruction and classwork to be delivered and completed. While this will be a new experience for students and teachers I am confident that we will be providing the world class education you expect from us at Walton-Verona.

Nothing can replace the student being here in the building every day with our teachers and staff but for now that it completely out of our control. All of us at WVMS are focusing on what we can control and right now that is getting back in front of students, albeit virtually, and getting them back into a daily routine of learning and interacting. Since this will all be done virtually it does come with several challenges. Many students need some form of support at home to get things set up for success. Many students require the structure that the school day provides. Many students need interactions with others.

The teachers and staff at WVMS still plan to provide the opportunity for all of that to happen but we need the help and support of the parents/guardians out there. Here are a few things to know about NTI instruction; many will be very different from what the spring experience provided.

1. Students will have classwork for all 5 Core Classes (Reading, Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies) every day of the week.....Monday thru Friday.
 - a. Instruction will NOT be synchronous – Live.
 - b. Teachers will be recording the direct instruction portion of the lesson for students to view.
 - c. Students will be able to access each teacher's lesson at any time during the day via that teacher's Google Classroom.
 - d. The expectation is that students will need to

work for up to 45 minutes per class per day.

- e. This is a little over 3 ½ hours per day.
 - f. Teachers will start off with smaller “chunks” over the first couple weeks in order for students to adjust to a new way of learning new material. This allows teachers to make adjustments to how much work is given. This allows students to build some endurance for working 3 ½ - 4 hours per day on school work.
2. Encore Classes – students will only need to manage one Encore Class (Physical Education, Art, STEM, Business, Music) at a time with switches coming at the quarter.
 - a. The only exceptions are for those students enrolled in Reading and/or Math RTI. They will be provided ongoing support on a weekly basis.
 - b. Encores will be assigning assignments/projects with longer-term due dates; typically two weeks. There will be check-ins with the teacher no less than weekly.
 - c. That way students can work on these a little at a time while trying to balance the work of their core classes.
 3. Teachers will be available to students, via Live Google Meets Sessions, on a regular basis.
 - a. For some teachers this is scheduled daily.
 - b. For others it is every other day.
 - c. It is important for students to log into the lesson prior to logging into the Google Meets Session so they know what questions need to be asked.
 4. Teachers will be available to students via email throughout the day.
 - a. Teachers will be checking their emails throughout the day for questions.
 - b. Emails send during normal school hours should expect a reply within a reasonable amount of time.
 - c. If an email is sent later in the evening then it is reasonable to expect a reply first thing the next morning.

Now, as far as what parents/guardians can do to help ensure a successful NTI experience for their student(s), here are a few important things to consider.

1. Set a daily schedule for your student. Students need that structure.
2. Provide an adequate place for your student to work on their classes.
3. Give them quick breaks every 45 minutes (after each lesson); 5 minutes is plenty.

4. Give them a longer break at the mid-point of working on their lessons; 25-30 minutes.

5. Don't let them get frustrated. If they are struggling then utilize the Live Google Meets Sessions and/or email.

While it is going to be a much different experience for everyone, I know that it can be a top-notch experience for everyone. Walton-Verona is an outstanding school district with outstanding students, families, teachers, and staff. We will make it through these challenging times and hopefully that is sooner than later but again, that is out of our control. WVMS does not see this as a setback or an obstacle but rather a unique opportunity to teach and learn in new ways and we are accepting that challenge.

I do worry about our students' emotional well-being during these times and we have plans in place for that as well. Brianna Miller, our new guidance counselor, is planning to provide our Social Emotional Learning program in some form during NTI and any Hybrid/Virtual Models. She is also available for individual assistance as needed. I encourage parents/guardians and students to reach out to her for support. While she is new to Walton-Verona as an employee she comes to us with vast experience and also lives in the community. I will end with the WVMS motto – "Individually we are strong; Together we are unstoppable."

Wishing all our Bearcat Family the best as we start the 2020-21 School Year.

Troy Ridener, Asst. Principal
troy.ridener@wv.kyschools.us

Brianna Miller, WVMS School Counselor
brianna.miller@wv.kyschools.us

Follow us at Twitter @ WVMS Principal

New WVMS Staff Members

Dane Brady, 7th grade Reading
dane.brady@wv.kyschools.us



Hayley Downs, 7th grade Writing
Hayley.downs@wv.kyschools.us

Walton-Verona Middle School
 32 School Road
 Walton, KY 41094
 (859) 485-7721
 Fax: (859) 485-7739
<http://www.wv.kyschools.us/.middleschool/>



Brianna Miller, Counselor
brianna.miller@wv.kyschools.us

Cassie Gibson, Instructional Asst.
cassie.gibson@wv.kyschools.us



Maggie Zumwalde, Technology Assistant
maggie.zumwalde@wv.kyschools.us

HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS – WVHS

Adam Nash, WVHS Principal

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Welcome to the 2020-21 School year! These school we will be facing many new challenges as we adjust to the COVID-19 pandemic and the use of Nontraditional Instruction (NTI). All teachers at Walton-Verona High School have shifted to virtual instruction and are highly anticipating the return of students into the building. As we prepared for the return to school and the possibility of utilizing online learning at some point in the school year, teacher participated in many different training and professional developments related to online learning and highly effective instructional strategies. After the switch to NTI in the spring with only a few days' notice, our teachers were able to implement virtual instruction but we also learned that an effective NTI program would require additional professional development and increased technology resources.

Prior to the COVID-19 virus, Walton-Verona High School was in the planning phases of purchasing and loaning Chromebooks to every student in the high school. We were meeting with various technology venders, watching presentations by different online platforms and testing different computer models to determine which hardware met our expectations. We anticipated distributing a Chromebook to every student in the high school in February of 2021. With the impact COVID-19 and NTI had on our students, families and staff, we looked at survey results to determine what the largest obstacles were for everyone. All parties reported the increased access to technology was essential. With the uncertainty of what school would look like in August, we made the decision to expedite our purchase of Chromebooks and made a purchase very early on in the summer to ensure we has a computer for every student when school started.

As we move forward with school, please make sure you are checking your email and have your contact information up to date in Infinite Campus. In an effort to prevent and overwhelming number of communications from the high school, we will send emails out for important items. We will also be posing information on the Walton-Verona Independent School District Facebook page. Mrs. Sarah Hester, our school's Guidance Counselor also post important items to her Twitter feed at @WVHScounselor.

With the start of every school year, we welcome new staff members to WVHS. I am pleased to introduce you to the new teachers at Walton-Verona High School:

Eric Fangman – Assistant Principal
Darrin Pollock – English Teacher
Tucker Teepen – English Teacher
Hannah Davis – Spanish Teacher
Mark Walters – Special Education Teacher
Emily Livingood – Social Studies Teacher

We look forward to making the 2020-2021 school year a success, no matter the location of the students and the delivery method of instruction. Even as we experience a change in traditional schooling, the staff of Walton-Verona High School is committed to providing the same level of education, access to the high caliber career pathways and dual credit classes we traditional offer. We are committed to reaching the needs of all students.

WVHS Yearbook

Please note those who purchased a 2019-2020 WVHS Yearbook publication will occur in the fall rather than at the start of the school year due to Graduation occurring in the late summer.

A notification will be sent through our District Webpage once books have arrived. Thank you for your patience in this change of events. We are very appreciative!

Walton-Verona High School

30 School Road

Walton, KY 41094

(859) 485-7721

Fax: (859) 485-7739

<http://www.wv.kyschools.us/.highschool/>

Directory Information

From time-to-time school-related groups and organizations ask for the addresses of students or graduates. Examples of these groups include the PTSA, Music Parents Association (WVMPA), WAVE Foundation, Alumni Association, class reunion groups, Military recruiters, and so on. If you object to having this information released, please contact the appropriate school or district office.

Walton-Verona Board of Education
16 School Road
Walton, KY 41094
(859) 485-4181
WVDist@wv.kyschools.us
<http://www.wv.kyschools.us/>

Walton-Verona High School has declared its campus to be TOBACCO-FREE. No smoking or other use of tobacco/nicotine products is permitted on our school grounds at any time. In the interest of the health and safety of our students, we ask you to serve as a role-model and help us maintain a tobacco-free environment. Thank you for your assistance.

Technology Resources for NTI:

For students and parents who need assistance during NTI, please visit our District Digital Learning Coach's webpage at:

<http://wv.kyschools.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=324341&pageId=9829526>

You will find a link to her webpage that contains a plethora of information on technology resources to use while in our new mode of education. This includes directions, descriptions, links, and more.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE REQUEST

Attention Parents: Should your child need to be absent for 5 days or more due to illness, surgery, hospital stay, or certain extenuating circumstances, please contact the school where he/she attends.

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION is available for students that have a qualifying ailment verified in advance by a doctor. Homebound Instruction allows your child to keep up with his/her school work and he/she is not counted absent while in this program.



The Walton-Verona Mirror

The Walton-Verona Mirror is a reflection of the Walton-Verona District and is intended to provide information to its students, parents, and employees. Any comments or suggestions can be submitted to Mrs. Sampson's Journalism class at the Walton-Verona High School.

Please email Jamiee.sampson@wv.kyschools.us or MirrorSubmit@wv.kyschools.us

Walton-Verona Provides Equal Educational and Employment Opportunities