



LEWIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

239 Court Avenue
Weston, West Virginia 26452
Telephone (304) 269-8300
Fax (304) 269-8305

Superintendent

Dr. Robin Lewis

Board of Education

James Flesher, President
David Bush
Phyllis Hinterer
Mike Holden
Kenny Lowther

Dear Parents and Students:

Members of the Lewis County Board of Education and I recognize that there are questions and concerns regarding the opening of school this fall. Our district and school administrators have been working diligently this summer to prepare for the return of students on September 8, 2020. Throughout the entire school year, Lewis County School District will follow guidance from state and local health department officials regarding school opening or possible closures. This year's return to school will come with some new protocols and procedures to keep everyone safe and healthy. Please view our Re-Entry Guide at lewisboe.com. More information is also available at wvde.state.wv.us. We encourage everyone to become familiar with these documents, and the accompanying protocols. While it will alter certain aspects of the school day, our goal is to maintain a normalized environment where students can learn and teachers can teach.

Our individual behavior will become the most effective defense against the virus. Up to this point, our best countermeasures against the virus have been limiting large scale social interactions and imposing restrictions on group gatherings. We have moved into a period where these types of restrictions are less sustainable. We are now beginning to rely more on individual behaviors. Frankly, our goal is to keep schools open. The best way to accomplish that is for each of us to demonstrate individual responsibility by protecting ourselves and others.

As we open schools for in-person instruction, it is important that everyone recognizes the role they play in protecting themselves and others. It is absolutely imperative that if anyone experiences flu-like symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, chills, nausea, etc.) they stay home. Each school will place a heightened emphasis on facility sanitation to maintain a clean and healthy school environment. Hand hygiene is vital! We will have hand sanitation stations placed throughout our schools and students will be encouraged to regularly wash their hands as a way to prevent the spread of germs to others. School supplies and personal water bottles to be utilized at water-bottle filling stations will be provided to all students.

The school district will provide face coverings to students. These white (Hanes) face coverings are durable, washable and reusable; however, students may also opt to bring their face coverings from home. Face coverings need to be washed or replaced daily. We also have a face shield for every teacher and staff member. Face shields permit the students to see and hear their teacher. Simple things like consistent hand-washing, staying home when sick, facial coverings, standing at a distance and limiting close interactions will become our best defense against the virus and keep everyone safe.

Finally, we know that there will be some families who choose to have their students learn from home. We want to accommodate that choice. We have had teams of employees working all summer to develop instructional procedures and technology supports that will enable your student to stay connected to his/her teacher and classmates while learning from home in a flexible model.

Prior to September 8, all students will receive a phone call from a school staff member to discuss the student's assigned group and days of school attendance. Effort will be made to assure that sibling/household groups are scheduled on the same days or with a schedule that supports the home instructional environment as requested by the parent/guardian.

The overall success of this school year will require each of us working closely together, listening to the concerns of others and doing our part to contribute to a positive, healthy and safe school experience.

Professionally,

Dr. Robin Lewis, Superintendent