

LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

September 2020

Elementary:

Masks, Social Distancing, and Handwashing! First week of school and our students and staff are doing an amazing job! We are optimistic about our new routines and we are quickly finding a new normal! Back to School with In-Person Learning gave us the opportunity to welcome our learners and staff back to school! Our schools are filled with the energy and excitement of learning! Kindergarten parents and students attended in-person Listening Conferences! We are off to a great start!

K-5 Distance Learning is also off to a great start! Online learning is taught by teachers who shifted from their previous assignments to teaching online. Our teachers did a 2-day meet, greet and materials distribution. Live instruction with interactive feedback will be employed whenever possible. Learning will be robust and consistent to the learning happening in school. Students choosing online can expect to engage in interesting, rigorous learning with timely feedback and assistance from teachers. Students will be able to personalize work time to fit individual needs. Support services (Special Education, 504 supports, EL) will be available to students in this program in a distance format.

Thank you to our families for your patience and flexibility as we reinvent school and create new ways of learning! Parent engagement and support is imperative to continue to provide expanded learning opportunities for our students. Together we can make a difference in the lives of our children. We appreciate and thank you for your continued strong support in bringing new and updated learning opportunities for our learners.

A Year of Gratitude

The first Monday of each month is an invitation to practice GRATITUDE ~ Saying Thank you and Being Thankful!

Middle School:

We are off and running at WMS. Safety has been the priority and our students are doing an amazing job of following safety expectations. Students have taken on the sanitizing responsibilities with ease. One area of improvement is social distancing during transitions. The trouble appears to be the fact that the masks make it harder to hear a conversation. If the conversation is too loud the adults might hear so what they do is move closer and closer. Clearly, socialization with one another is a welcome change from leaning at home, but we need to get better at keeping 6 feet from one another.

When asked, most students are responding that they would rather be learning at school than at home. They have missed being here as much as we have missed having them here. By looking at their eyes, you can actually see the smiles underneath masks. Classroom sizes of 15-22 sure has changed the classroom dynamics and the noise levels in the halls and at lunches make it feel like nobody is here.

Teachers are still learning how to connect with distance learners and on-site learners at the same time. At WMS and across the field of education, educators are learning new ways of doing things that may have never been considered. Attendance throughout the day for distance learners has caused some challenges but the technology support staff has been amazing at working out the kinks.

Given the circumstances, it has been a great start to the school year and we expect it to continue.

High School:

We have enjoyed a great start to the school year! All the hard work, preparation, and planning paid off as students returned to the building and moved through their classes. While the students appear to be truly happy to return, social distancing for high-schoolers continues to be a challenge and all of us are coming to grips with our “new normal”.

We have received our Advanced Placement scores, and even with the challenges of the pandemic our students did a great job. WHS students took a total of 443 exams (the most ever) and our passing rate was over 74% (which is awesome). In addition, 36 students were recognized as AP Scholars (meaning they passed 3 or more tests), 16 were recognized with AP Honors (meaning they passed 4 or more tests), 24 were recognized with AP Distinctions (meaning they passed 5 or more tests), and 3 were recognized as National Merit Scholars (meaning they passed 8 or more tests). We’ve always taken pride in making our AP courses accessible to all of our students, and it’s evident with 34% of the Class of 2020 having passed at least one AP class during their high school career.

A huge “Thanks” goes out to all the students, the staff, and parents who have worked together to make the very best out of a tough situation. Together we’ve been able to navigate through the challenges in providing high quality educational opportunities for our students.

Activities: www.waconiaathletics.com

Online Tickets for all Wildcat Varsity Home Soccer Games are ON SALE NOW! Please visit: <https://whs-soccer-tickets.eventbrite.com>

* ONLINE Ticket sales only. There will NOT be any money or passes accepted for admission.

* Admission per game: \$5 Adults / Students / Senior Citizens

Can’t make it to the game? A majority of our games will be live streamed at **Prepspotlight.tv!** A % of the package price will go to your school of choice by selecting “WACONIA” in the payment process!

Thank you for your continued support and GO WILDCATS!

Community Ed:

It is so great to be able to start offering programming again! We had a great summer and were able to offer a lot of different recreation and enrichment programs. Last we start our fall recreation programs. We are offering fall soccer, flag football and volleyball. Our football and volleyball programs are in-house leagues only. This year we are not playing against other towns and are limiting fans at practices/games.

Our Preschool and Kid's Company program got off to a great start this week as well. It was so great to see all of our Preschool kids back in our building. Seeing the smiles and hearing the laughter. Kids' Company has sites at all 3 elementary's and the Waconia Enrichment Center.

Human Resources:

Our 2020-2021 school year started with a wonderful – albeit different – Welcome Back Celebration where 45 new faces were introduced during Superintendent Devine's "Welcome Back" video! It's a tradition in our school district to introduce all new employees that were hired since the previous year's workshop week festivities. This year's "video" introductions were a creative way to welcome our new employees to our ONE10 team.

We will recognize ten teachers at Monday's School Board meeting that achieved continuing contract status with our School District effective July 1, 2020. These teachers earned this honor by providing excellent teaching and leadership services to our students during their probationary period in our school district. Our administrative staff is confident these teachers will continue to promote the district's commitment to exceptional teaching and the pursuit of educational excellence.

Student Services:

The Special Education Department completed some heavy work the last couple of weeks. This summer, MDE directed districts to include all three scenarios (In-person, hybrid, and distance only) in the planning for students on IEPs. For special education, that meant during the last 2 weeks, each student's case manager needed to connect with families to develop a Contingency Learning Plan (CLP) that was amended to the current IEP. The CLP describes the methods of services that the student will receive under any of the three scenarios. The CLP allows for fluid IEP services to be provided in response to decisions regarding the designated learning scenario at any given time. Each CLP will have a section for each scenario that will be in effect during the period in which the school is providing services under that specific scenario (i.e. the **Distance** Contingency Plan is only in effect when the district is providing **distance** learning services to students). This was a **significant** undertaking on top of the usual back-to-school work that needs to be done such as preparing for instruction, scheduling and preparing for ESPs, special transportation arrangements, etc.

ESPs also reported to work last week and did a great job in their buildings. They were participating in training, learning about their new students, learning building protocols, preparing materials, collaborating with teaching staff, the list goes on and on.

Teaching & Learning:

Reopening Plan: Teaching and Learning has been working in close partnership with building leadership and teachers on reopening schedules and logistical plans. In collaboration with the technology integrationist team, we have built a Schoology page for teachers that serves as a clearinghouse for support. Sarah Klitzke and Tim Koschinska have created an instructional framework for teachers to help guide this work. As teachers have completely redesigned their delivery of instruction, the following practices remain at the core:

- Keep learning coherent through the mapping of priority standards, learning targets, and aligned assessments.
- Meet the needs of all learners through equitable instruction and services model.
- Create a flexible plan for the 2020-2021 school year. Build out resources in Seesaw and Schoology.
- Use Gradual Release of Responsibility as an instructional strategy for core content.

We are also working hard to ensure that teachers have the resources needed for delivery of effective instruction. Ensuring an equitable services model would have been impossible if not for the CARES Act funding that recently came to the district. Thanks to Tracy Edsill, Administrative Assistant, for all her work in getting these necessary resources in the hands of teachers.

Instructional Coaching: It is our pleasure to welcome Lindsay Seim to the D110 Instructional Coaching Team. Lindsay will be our solo instructional coach this year as her colleague, Jake Hockinson, has temporarily stepped back into his teaching role as the grade 5 distance learning instructor. This was an unanticipated change, but a decision that was in the best interest of D110 students. Lindsay will continue to support teachers in their professional growth, as well as mentor teachers new to District 110.

Professional Growth, Reflection and Evaluation (i.e. Teacher Evaluation): We have received guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education that for the 2020-2021 school year, teacher evaluation activities will continue, including practices that were temporarily paused last spring. We are working in partnership with Human Resources to prepare our regularly scheduled practices to support teachers in their professional growth.

Technology:

Infrastructure: One of the questions that was asked frequently during our preparation for these new instructional models was, is our network going to be able to handle the new demands. We have been cautiously optimistic of the performance. I gladly say that during the first week of school we have seen good performance from our network infrastructure. Mark Schumann, our

Network Specialist, has briefly looked at our bandwidth usage during our first week and currently all indications are that we are in good shape. We will continue to monitor our network more often than normal so that we can try to stay ahead of any changes that may occur. Now, I am crossing my fingers that I won't regret putting this in writing. :)

Student Devices: Chromebook and laptop demand in the general market place across the nation is like never seen before. Because of this, it has been very challenging for our families who are eligible for our Dually-funded BYOD purchase program to purchase devices. We worked with Best Buy, our partner in this program, to secure inventory of 4 devices for this program and these devices have been out of stock more than in stock over the last month. We worked with Best Buy just recently to open up the entire Mobile Computing Category on BestBuy.com for our families to purchase devices. This was the right thing to do, but there are still very limited options for families because the demand has been so high for devices. We are currently in discussions with Best Buy to extend our program past the Oct. 2nd deadline to allow families that want to purchase a device and actually get one the opportunity to do that.

Technology integration: Our Technology Integrationists have been working tirelessly in collaboration with Teaching & Learning and our teaching staff to put our new learning models in place. Much effort has been put into getting staff the tech knowledge, work flow structure, and processes, so that they can provide the most effective and consistent learning models that they can, so that they are able to transition from an on-site learning model, to a hybrid learning model to a distance learning model. The district has put much effort into streamlining our technology resources that students/families will use on a regular basis so as to provide consistency across classrooms and grade levels. We believe that this effort will help families understand where and how to find the important instructional activities and communication. The district expectation is all teachers in grades Pre-K-2 use the Seesaw learning management system and grades 3-12 use the Schoology learning management system.

Cafe #110

Meal service has, as expected, been very light - during the first week, we served ~25% of the student body - well below the usual 85%+ in years past.

On September 8th MDE, in partnership with the USDA, has provided a limited waiver allowing school meal programs to provide all kids 18 and younger free meals. September 10th Cafe #110 was enrolled and provided meals at no charge for children in all learning models. This is a BIG opportunity for our program to support students, schools, families, our community and Cafe #110 staff through this pandemic. We are carefully & strategically setting up our roll out to maintain safety and to best provide the benefit.

This benefit is slated to expire December 31, 2020 or sooner based on funding. We will be ready to transition if/ when necessary communicating this to our community. When funding is exhausted Cafe #110 will transition back to the current model of meal programming - meal pricing based on meal benefit eligibility.

Superintendent:**Never Forget 9/11**

Let's take a moment to remember the attacks on 9/11 nineteen years ago. May we always honor all those that we lost and were injured on 9/11, and the many who rose in service in response to the attacks. May we Never Forget.

The First Week of School.

The first week of school at ISD ONE10 in a Hybrid model has gone even better than expected. We know that there has been a lot of anxiety, concerns and questions about the start of school this year during the Covid-19 pandemic. As we opened the doors, many of the concerns went away. Setting all that planning into motion went quite smoothly. The students, staff and parents have shown a lot of joy during this first week. Being apart from each other for over 6 months has been tough and you can tell that everyone genuinely appreciates being together. We continue to make sure we are following the MDH/MDE/CDC health and safety guidelines and have established the best and safest academic environment possible. We know there will continue to be issues that will need to be addressed and modified, but, for the most part, we are very proud of what we have delivered.

ISD ONE10 and Laketown Elementary School were showcased on WCCO.

We had a fun experience on the first day of school, WCCO came out to do a story about our school district's "back to school" plan. They featured Laketown Elementary. It is rewarding to have our schools recognized for the good work that we are doing here in ONE10.

[Link to WCCO 5:00 pm story](#)

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A Huge Thank You goes out for all the work in the ONE10 Preparedness Plan!

The summer of 2020 was a very intense planning time as we developed a plan to welcome students back to school...but there were many unknowns. A Huge Thank You goes out to the school board, administration, teachers, school staff, parents, students and community for coming together to deliver a plan that addresses safety and academics at a high level. It has been an enormous undertaking and the collaboration, input, feedback and teamwork to design our ONE10 plan went exceptionally well. Thank YOU!!

The additional planning days for staff has proven to provide a great benefit to the start of school. Our buildings were ready, the protocols for safety were ready, teacher lesson planning for delivering our strong academics was ready, and the confidence to open our building is showing in all of our staff members. The plan is working.

The current [Covid-19 data for Carver County](#) (click on the MDH School Data tab) continues to keep us in the Hybrid model for secondary and we are in the In-Person model at elementary, yet the elementary number is close to Hybrid. This is the reason we are using Learning Pods, to

provide a model that meets both requirements. By giving our K-6 students daily In-Person instruction, we take the stress away if we need to switch scenarios.....because the Learning Pods work for both.

The initial student enrollment as of 9/10/20 looks at follows:

- 3671 students attending school in our buildings
- 355 students in the distance learning model
- 4026 students total at ONE10
 - The 2019-20 school year had a student count of 4071

We realize that a few families made a choice other than ONE10 this year which we understand and knew would happen. This number (less than 2%) is much lower than other school districts. Now that we are up and running, in-person K-6, hybrid 7-12, (distance learning is an option for everyone), and parents can see how well it's working, we welcome the return of students when the timing is right.

As we manage our school district during this pandemic, we know that we will have challenges ahead. We know that there may be some Covid-19 exposure or outbreaks that will need to handle and potentially change our model. We are prepared for that.

The concerns of needing to go to distance learning for a period of time due to the Covid data in a single learning pod, grade level, building level or district level is real and we are hopeful that all our safety precautions will reduce any potential spread.

One of our biggest concerns is having enough substitutes if we have a number of staff members who are Covid-19 symptomatic, exposed, or test positive. This is the same concern across the state....staffing shortages could cause us to move to a different educational model. We are very thankful for our ONE10 staff who are doing everything they can to stay healthy. Our ONE10 educators truly are essential employees for the state, our community and our school district!

Over the past few weeks I have been able to meet virtually with other superintendents and collaborate on different ideas that are being planned across the state. What I have found is that we are doing some of the best work that is out there and our planning, communication and collaboration is among the best. Our ONE10 philosophy of working together is shining through. Thank you to ALL for the incredible work, collaboration and support!!

Op. Levy Town Hall Meeting Recap

On Thursday, 9/10/20, we conducted our first Operating Levy Town Hall meeting. It was great to get our message out into the public. We have [Operating Levy Information](#) on our website and we are looking forward to more opportunities to host virtual or social distancing town hall meetings. We have communicated our financial situation over the past 18 months and know the \$410 per student operating levy is needed to maintain our current programming. ONE10 voters will determine the future of our school district during the 2020 election.

[Operating Levy Animated Informational Video](#)

[Operating Levy Town Hall Presentation Video](#)

Thanks for a Fantastic Start to the 2020-21 School Year!
WE Are ONE10!!



