

LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

September 2021

Elementary: At the elementary level, we have really enjoyed having students back on site the past two weeks! The first weeks of the school year we always spend a lot of time teaching students school-wide routines and expectations. This practice has been especially helpful this year as we all return to a more “normal” school day. Thank you to our students, families, and staff who have done a fantastic job adjusting to the earlier start time to accommodate tiered busing. We also want to thank families for continuing to monitor their children’s health and follow the symptom screening tool each day. As we say at school and in our newsletters, **WILDCATS TAKE CARE OF WILDCATS!**

Waconia Middle School:

Great to be back!

It has been a great start to the school year and the students' energy and enthusiasm to be back in school has been fun and positive. Names have been learned, routines have been learned, locker combos are figured out, and we are getting down to the business of learning. It really feels great to be back in school. WMS administration met with students to welcome them back and review expectations regarding our four Core Values Respect, Responsibility, Kindness, and Integrity. We also reviewed handbook items on bullying/harassment reporting, expectations for mask-wearing on busses, being inclusive, non judgemental, and respectful to students with and without masks, professional student dress, and the requirement to leave cell phones and smartwatches in their lockers during the school day.

Gym Floor Update

The materials are all on-site and workers from H2I have made quite a bit of progress installing the sub-floor layers and the beautiful maple planks. The sub-floor layers include a moisture barrier, two layers of padding and two sheets of plywood. The new floor will have more spring and be safer than our previous floor. The next steps include sanding, painting lines and graphics, sealing and final finishing. The project is definitely on pace to be ready on or before Oct. 1st. A big thanks to our students and staff for making PE classes work with the limited spaces.

Athletics, Clubs, Fine Arts and Activities

Middle School is about exploration and we are opening many options to explore. Currently middle school teams for 7th and 8th grade football and volleyball are in action. Large groups of middle school students are also participating in multiple high school sports including in cross country and girls tennis. Next week we begin sign ups for multiple intramural sports options and opportunities to join after school clubs. Students have also started signing up for auditions to be in our Fall play, *Peter Pan*.

Waconia High School:

We have enjoyed a great start to the school year, it was definitely time to get students back into the building. Both students and staff have transitioned into “school-mode” and there’s a lot of positive energy. It is definitely a different feel to have all of the students back in the building and having all of our activities and clubs are in full swing. Getting everyone back into routines and schedules has definitely had a different feel. What used to be “normal routines” are now “new routines.”

We’re finishing our second week and already focusing on Homecoming, October 4th - 8th.

Activities: www.waconiaathletics.com

Fall activities are off to a fantastic start! It has been wonderful to see the students back in action and back, enthusiastically cheering on the Wildcats! We are looking forward to Friday night lights at TCO Stadium in Eagan as our Wildcats take on the Hawks from Cooper! This is an incredible opportunity for both our students and community and with more than 1,000 advance tickets sold to our fans, the Vikings stadium will be bursting with Purple and Gold pride! If you can’t make it to the game, PrepSpotlight.TV will be streaming the game at <https://prepspotlight.tv/MSHSL/GameStream/12943> This game will be free to view as the Vikings Prep Spotlight Game of the Week! GO WILDCATS!

Community Ed:

Wildcat Preschool and Kids’ Company got off to a great start! It is so good to have kids back in our building again. ECCE classes start the week of September 13.

Nickle Dickle day is Saturday, September 18! It’s going to be a great day. There is still plenty of time to sign up for the 5K run/walk, 10K, 10K Relay and the ½ Mile Tickle. The 10K starts at 8:00 am. The 5K at 8:10 and the Tickle starts at 10:15 am. All races start and end at Bayview Elementary. Come out and enjoy the day!

Human Resources:

We will recognize twelve teachers at Monday’s School Board meeting that achieved continuing contract status with Waconia Public Schools effective July 1, 2021. 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.

Support Services:

Special Education is off to a great start and we are almost 100% fully staffed. The special education student enrollment grew by 21 students over the summer. For pre-K through 12th grade, we had 44 students with IEPs move into the District and 23 move out or revoke services.

Impact of Covid 19 Pandemic on Students with Disabilities: As part of the directive in the Laws of Minnesota, 2021, 1st Special Session, chapter 13, article 5, section 1, passed this summer, the District must collaborate with families of students with disabilities to address the impact of the disruption related to the COVID-19 pandemic. General information about this law was emailed to parents from the Director of Special Education on Friday, September 10th. The next step in the process involves the special education staff contacting all parents/guardians by October 1st to determine if the parent/guardian wishes to participate in an IEP team meeting to address the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on their child. For parents wishing to meet, they must receive an invitation to such a meeting by December 1, 2021. These meetings will “determine whether special education services and supports are necessary to address lack of progress on IEP goals or in the general education curriculum or loss of learning or skills.” This is another significant undertaking by the special education department.

Teaching & Learning:

It feels good to have the energy of teachers and students back in school. The Teaching and Learning Team welcomes Jake Hockinson back to join his colleague, Lindsay Seim, as part of the Instructional Coaching Team. Jake took a 1-year leave to support students as a Grade 5 distance learning teacher in 2020-2021.

This year, the Teaching and Learning Team will provide direct support in 4 areas of the D110 Operational Plan:

1. Implementation of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) annual goals and performance indicators
2. Guided training and support for the 2021-2025 Professional Growth, Reflection and Evaluation Plan (PGRE)
3. Standards-based learning and reporting practices for K-5 and 6-8
4. Cultural competence initiatives and training

We have aligned district and school staff development calendars to support implementation of annual goals and performance indicators. We are excited about the collaborative efforts happening at the district and school wide level to support these strategic initiatives.

In addition, we plan to begin the process of curriculum review and program development in the areas of K-12 Science and 4-5 Word Study as part of 2021-2022 Curriculum Review Cycle.

Superintendent:

GREAT Start to the School Year!

There is great enthusiasm and excitement in the school buildings this year with the return to all students being on campus. The staff is doing excellent work in creating a wonderful learning environment for all our students. ISD ONE10 is known for providing an exceptional education while building caring and meaningful relationships with students. You can feel the positive energy in the buildings as we start a wonderful school year at ONE10. A Big THANKS to all who make this fantastic partnership by providing an excellent education. Our students, staff,

parents and community all come together to create a superb environment for learning and working....Thank You!

COVID-19 Data and the ONE10 Safe Learning Plan

We are now two weeks into the school year and we have some local data to share with how things are going so far in our schools. With a new addition to our website, we show our local dashboard for COVID-19 data. With the Safe Learning Plan providing for choice, we want to make sure you are informed with the most recent data. We know that there are still many concerns with what is happening with COVID-19 and it is our goal to keep as many students at school for in person learning as possible. We also want to make sure we are being safe for all learners. This continues to be a balancing act and there are strong opinions on all sides. Our priority is to provide the best education we can for our students. We will continue to monitor county and school district data to determine how best to stay safe yet provide a great learning environment.

We are asking all at ONE10 to help keep COVID-19 from spreading and do their best to stay safe so that we can continue with in person learning. It is extremely important that each person coming to school continues to [screen for COVID-19 symptoms](#), whether they are vaccinated or not....and if feeling sick....STAY HOME. Currently we have identified a highly infectious classroom (3 or more Covid-19 cases over 14 days) and are determining the best plan of action to provide more safety mitigations. We will continue to communicate with families as Covid-19 concerns develop and provide the best plan to help ensure safety for all at ONE10.

We continue to follow our current [Safe Learning Plan](#). If you want or need a COVID-19 test, here are the [Carver County Covid Test Locations](#). We are exploring a state grant to provide more testing opportunities....more to follow. I am also a firm believer that vaccinations help keep the virus away. COVID-19 vaccinations are available at multiple locations in Waconia for those who wish to get one. Currently we have the following [vaccination rates](#): Carver County 16 years old and older....79.6% and 65+....99%, and as of 9/10/21...ONE10 eligible WMS students...56% and WHS students....62%. These vaccination rates will help keep students in school and activities. Let's all stay safe and be well as we protect each other throughout this school year. WE Are ONE10!

Resource Links to follow:

- [ISD ONE10 Website](#)
- [Best Practice Recommendations for COVID-19 Prevention in Schools.](#)
- [MN Vaccination Rate Data](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)
- [MDH COVID-19 Weekly Report](#)
- [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)
- [Guidance for Implementing COVID-19 Prevention Strategies in the Context of Varying Community Transmission Levels and Vaccination Coverage](#)

Never Forget 9/11

As we remember the tragedy of 9/11, it is important that all generations are educated about this attack on our country. I have a dear friend who was buried in the rubble of 9/11 and survived. He always helps me remember that WE NEVER FORGET 9/11. May all of the families that suffered pain and loss due to 9/11 be honored as we remember.

Thanks for a Fantastic Start to 2021-22
WE Are ONE10!!

