



Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to the 2022-23 school year! We are excited to welcome students back for in-person learning five days a week. Our teachers, principals, and staff are ready and eager to support their academic and personal growth.

We are committed to making sure our schools are safe, clean, and welcoming places where every student can succeed. We know that students thrive when they feel valued, supported, and encouraged. To that end, WJCC Schools is committed to providing a high-quality education and equitable access to resources for all students in a caring and inclusive environment.

Students also play a vital role in their own academic and personal success. The WJCC Schools Student Code of Conduct serves as the foundation of this effort by outlining students' rights, responsibilities, and expectations for behavior. We encourage families to read and review the Student Code of Conduct with your child(ren) and refer back to it as needed throughout the school year.

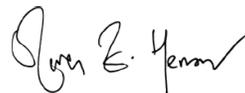
At the start of the school year, students and parents/guardians must electronically sign a statement acknowledging that they received this handbook and understand the expectations for student behavior. Please also use this as an opportunity to remind your child about the importance of being a good digital citizen and taking care of their school division-issued laptop or tablet.

On behalf of our teachers, principals, support staff, and school board, we want to thank you for partnering with us to support student learning. We look forward to a positive and productive year.  
Sincerely,



Greg Dowell, Jr.

Chair of the School Board



Olwen E. Herron, Ed.D.

Superintendent

## Overview and Guiding Principles

All schools must make in-person instruction available to all students pursuant to [Senate Bill 1303](#), passed during Virginia’s 2021 legislative session. Under this new law, schools are permitted to switch from in-person to partial or fully virtual instruction temporarily if COVID-19 transmission levels within the school are deemed to be at a high level in collaboration with the local health department. Additionally, Senate Bill 1303 states that “each school board shall... (ii) provide such in-person instruction in a manner in which it adheres, to the maximum extent practicable, to any currently applicable mitigation strategies for early childhood care and education programs and elementary and secondary schools to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 that have been provided by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.” School divisions should consult local counsel to ensure mitigation measures are following law. School-sponsored sports and extracurricular activities are beneficial to students and can help them learn and achieve, however, schools and communities should continue to use a “classroom-first” approach.

Governor Youngkin signed legislation making masks optional in Virginia schools effective March 1, 2022 and banning local school divisions from imposing mask mandates. As a result of a court order, effective April 18, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) January 29, 2021 [Order](#) requiring masks on public transportation conveyances and at transportation hubs is no longer in effect.

CDC’s new [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) recommendations align precautions for educational settings with those for other community settings.

CDC [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#) (1/13/22)

More information about schools and COVID-19 can be found on the [VDH FAQs](#) website and the [VDOE website](#) .

## **Health and Safety**

WJCC Schools has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and division staff to support in-person instruction 5 days per week. Additional information can be found on <https://wjccschools.org/forward/>

## **Continuity of Services**

WJCC Schools offers face-to-face learning, five days a week, for all students during the 2022-2023 school year. Prevention measures such as vaccinations for eligible students and staff, staying home when sick, handwashing, respiratory etiquette, daily cleaning and disinfecting and enhanced air ventilation/purification will be in place.

## **What to expect at school**

- Breakfast and lunch (including hot meals) will be served daily. Additional information can be found at <https://wjccschools.org/parents/student-meals/>
- Air ventilation systems and/or purifiers are maintained in all schools.
- Students will share classroom materials. We now know that COVID does not live for an extended period on hard surfaces; therefore, there is no need for individual sets of classroom materials.
- 8 of 9 WJCC elementary schools added classroom trailers to increase learning space and decrease the number of students in traditional classrooms.
- WJCC Schools values its partnerships with school volunteers and visitors. School year 2022-23 welcomes the return of all school volunteers and visitors to all 16 schools.

## **Virtual Learning Options**

The division is also offering full-time virtual learning options for students K-12 who enrolled over the summer. These rigorous classes meet or exceed Virginia's Standards of Learning (SOLs) and align with WJCC Schools' graduation requirements.

Elementary students will participate in live daily instruction led by highly qualified, licensed teachers from the State's [Virtual Virginia](#) platform. Classes include reading/language arts, math, science, and social studies. In addition, time is built into the schedule for small-group work, daily class meetings, and specialty classes such as wellness, world languages, dance, and arts.

Middle and high school courses include a blend of live and asynchronous instruction led by WJCC Schools teachers in our [WJCC Virtual Academy](#). Additionally, students may access additional courses through the state's [Virtual Virginia](#) program.

Web-based classes include core subject matter content such as English, math, science, and history, as well as electives, special education services, and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Specific course offerings are determined based on student enrollment and teacher availability.

## **Instruction**

WJCC has worked collaboratively with teachers, leaders, content coordinators and instructional coaches to develop priority standards for all levels. This embedded resource within the curriculum and revised pacing guides will support focused instruction and learning. Based on individual student needs and multiple data points, schools will provide academic supports and resources for students. In addition to academic supports, schools will strategically support and monitor the social emotional needs of students.

WJCC Schools is a 1:1 division and the learning management system, Canvas, houses all K-12 curriculum, resources and materials to support learning and promote student engagement. This platform facilitates the opportunity for collaboration across all content areas and schools within our division. Additionally, the instructional staff is continuing to utilize, create and refine common assessments to monitor student progress.

## **Communication Platforms**

- Visit <https://wjccschools.org/> for key information and updates (e.g., newsletters)
- School Messenger, the division's rapid notification system (calls, emails and text messages)
- Social media (@WJCCSchools), to connect with families, students and the community via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube
- Parent Academy, which offers free support and information through in-person and electronic formats

## **Student Enrollment/Registration**

If your student(s) is not yet enrolled, you may do so by contacting your school to make an appointment to register in-person. You may also begin the process electronically by starting on the “Registration” page of our website: <https://wjccschools.org/parents/enrollment/online-pre-registration>.

Not sure which school your child will attend or need to know the start times? Visit this link, <https://wjccschools.org/parents/enrollment/school-zones-hours> for additional information.

## **Social - Emotional Learning**

To address students’ social-emotional learning, all students will have access to a wide variety of resources, including:

- A comprehensive K-12 school counseling program that includes school counseling curriculum, small-group counseling, individual counseling, crisis response, and appraisal and advisement directed at improving students’ social-emotional well-being.
- WJCC has employed additional school counselors to reach the 1:250 ratio
- Students needing more support will have access to school counselors, school psychologists and school social workers through a defined referral system.
- At the elementary level, all students will participate in regular morning/class meetings to foster communication, understanding, connection and community.
- Middle school staff will utilize curriculum resources from the “Second Step” social-emotional learning curriculum to support student needs
- Schools will continue implementing and using their multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) for academics and utilizing their MTSS school-based team
- Clear teaching and learning expectations
- High academic and behavioral expectations for all students



