



WSESU Elementary Student Learning Options September 2020

“Hybrid” Learning Option

2 days per week = in school

3 days per week = online

- Attend school in person 2 days: either **Monday/Tuesday** or **Thursday/Friday**. Elementary sibling days will be the same.
- Goal is to increase student days of in-person attendance after September if safety regulations and data allow.
- Online learning (other 3 days) guided by a certified teacher who is available to live zoom and provide direct teaching and activities. Chromebook is provided and travels back and forth from school/home in your child’s backpack.
- Home health screening questions / temperature checks daily upon arrival to school.
- Masks worn by all students and adults, all day, except for breakfast, lunch and snack. Mask breaks allowed when kids can be more than 6’ apart and seated, or outside. Masks will be provided for students who need them.
- Classroom spaces will practice physical distancing for students and adults. No sharing of learning materials or toys.
- Students will be in small “pods” throughout the day, and travel in the building is limited.

“Remote” Learning Option

5 days per week = online

- 5-day per week learning happens via live zoom lessons, online websites for academic practice, and off-screen projects.
- Guided by a certified teacher. Staff to be determined by district need, although our goal is to have instruction by school-based teachers.
- No screenings, temp checks or masks outside of normal household routine.
- Chromebooks, online learning subscriptions, and technology support will be provided by our district. Families provide their own internet connection.
- Clear attendance guidelines will be shared. Attendance will be taken based on participation in online meetings/lessons and online work and project completion..
- Teachers and students will follow a consistent daily schedule of meetings, online lessons and assignments. Small group instruction and discussion with a live teacher will be offered as much as possible.
- We will strive for weekly 1:1 check-ins with students and families.

A note about school bus transportation: *We encourage walking, biking or driving to school this year.*

If you must have your child take the bus:

You MUST REGISTER by taking this survey: [WSESU Transportation Survey / Registration](#) If you don't have access to the survey online, please call 802-555-1212 to complete the survey on the phone.

After registering for the bus, you will be provided with times and locations of bus pick-ups and drop-offs.

WSESU Family Guide “Fully Remote” or “Hybrid” learning

Hybrid Model Description

- **Classroom / Teacher Assignments:**

Students in each of the **hybrid learning groups** will be assigned to a small team of educators who will stay with the “pod”. To the extent possible, the *same* team of educators will be supporting your students for *both* hybrid AND at-home learning days.

Students who are **fully remote** will be assigned to small groups of educators who will guide learning daily. It is our goal to provide live online instruction from staff based at a student's school. However, schools may need to shift staffing based on district-wide remote needs.

- **Masking:**

Everyone in school will need to wear a mask consistently throughout the day. Masks can come off for eating indoors, during which time, students will be 6 feet apart from each other. Whenever possible, eating will take place distanced, outside. Masks can also come off when students are seated, outside, properly spaced.

Please help us reinforce these mask norms: Keep your mask on, except when it is time to eat or drink. Do not touch your face. Masks should be labeled with your child's name for identification, please. Reinforce mask use at home. All staff will model appropriate mask behavior.

- **Sanitizing / Protocols**

At school, we will be uniformly teaching students to wash hands at specific intervals. Staff and students will follow VT Health Department guidelines for hand sanitizing and handwashing. Classrooms will be sanitized before school begins, as well as mid-day. Hand sanitizer stations will be accessed upon entering the building at the start of the day, and each time we come back inside. The building will be deeply cleaned on Wednesdays before the next group of students comes in for Th/Fri learning. Wednesdays are home learning days for everyone. Each building is working to exceed published air quality standards and air circulation will be monitored regularly.

Our Covid Action team is working to acquire and adapt [VT Health guidelines](#) and protocols that can be uniformly instructed for the highest degree of safety possible. Each of our schools will aim to provide a safe school environment while maintaining opportunities for academic success.

Some protocols that are currently evolving include: response if someone in our community acquires the virus; notification in the event of symptoms being identified in student or staff, substitute teachers and staffing shortages, and restroom monitoring. We intend to prepare for appropriate response to as many scenarios as possible prior to the September 8th start date. We will revise protocols as new issues and guidelines arise.

- **Curriculum:**

Schools across our district will begin the year with a strong focus on the social and emotional

well-being of our students. This will include plenty of community building activities, outdoor time and a project-based approach toward learning. For our hybrid students, technology skills will be explicitly taught during in-person time.

- **Recess:**

Recess is an important time for distanced social interaction and physical activity. Per Governor Scott's mandate, students will wear masks during recess unless they are engaged in specific organized recess activities that help them maintain a 6 foot distance from each other. Sharing equipment is currently off limits. Hand sanitizer will be accessible during recess whenever needed and will be required before re-entering the building.

- **Changing your schedule** (ie: going from fully remote to hybrid, or changing from hybrid to fully remote)

This will be a challenge, among the many challenges. We will do our best to accommodate changes to meet the needs of your family. Please make your choice of hybrid or remote instruction carefully. We ask that unless there are extreme extenuating circumstances, you maintain your choice for at least the first semester of school. Please also be patient with us as we juggle the needs of families and available staff scheduling.

Remote-Only Model Description

While we know that the value and benefits of in-person learning are extensive and can not be replicated virtually, we also recognize during these challenging times that some of our families will need to keep their students at home. Therefore we are committed to offering the highest quality virtual model of schooling possible. Below you will find a preliminary description of components of our proposed model. Please note: this description is preliminary and is subject to change based on student and staff needs as well as the emerging health and safety needs across our community.

- **Instructional Delivery**

Students who opt for the remote-only learning model will receive instruction through a balanced combination of live interaction with WSESU certified teachers (via video conferencing and pre-recorded video lessons) and assignments, activities and projects to be carried out independently across each week. When possible, students will be taught by a teacher from their school, however there may be some exceptions depending on enrollment and site-based staffing needs.

- **Scheduling**

A remote school day will mirror the rhythm of a traditional school day as closely as possible. Students will be provided with a suggested schedule and a menu of activities. Periodic teacher check-in times will be available across the day, depending on student needs. Academics will be balanced with hands-on activities that take students outside and away from the screen. Screen time will differ based on age of student (ex: elementary students will be expected to spend less time on screens than secondary students). Sample schedules is as follows:

- **Sample Daily Remote-Learning Schedule (K-2)**

- 8:00-9:00 **Breakfast and Log in:** to classroom site for schedule and assignments
- 9:00-9:20 **Morning Meeting/Check-in** via video or a live teacher
- 9:20-10:00 **Literacy:** A mix of video-based instruction and independent opportunities for practice
- 10:00-11:00 **Snack and outdoor play**
- 11:00-12 **Project-based exploration:** Optional science, social studies, outdoor inquiry activities

- 12-1:15 **Lunch and free time**
- 1:15-2:20 **Math:** A combination of online, small group and/or independent work
- 2:20-2:30 **Closure:** Turn in work and send communication to teacher

- **Additional Support**

Each remote teacher will offer 30 minutes of office hours via video conference or phone each week in order to provide 1:1 support and consultation for students and families. This time may be utilized by students, parents or both who are seeking help with assignments or guidance in navigating technology.

- **Technology**

Each student who enrolls in remote-learning will be provided with a chromebook or equivalent device by their school. In addition, they will have access to all virtual learning tools that are utilized by WSESU.

- **Parent Commitment**

Parents will be expected to support their student's learning from home. This will look different across age-groups and will vary depending on each individual students' level of organization and independence. Parents of younger children can expect to be required to provide more guidance than older students, but in general, families who opt for remote-only instruction for their children should be prepared to play an active role in their child's instructional experience. While parents will not be expected to deliver instruction, they may be required to assist their children with organization and overall participation in remote-learning. This may include: establishing a daily routine, ensuring their children are participating productively in daily instruction, reinforcing the schedule, contacting the teacher when necessary, encouraging their children to self-advocate when struggling, and other needs as they arise.