



Elementary Student Learning Options (K-6)

Spring Semester

Middle and High School descriptions will be available separately

Message from the Superintendent:

As our WSESU learning plan for the second semester is being developed, smooth transitions between in-person learning and remote options will be a necessary priority. While we do not anticipate the need to move our hybrid students to a remote setting, this potential exists and the start of a new semester affords us an opportunity to improve our capacity.

Given what we have discovered with regards to the transmission of the virus as well as what we have learned about the impact of this pandemic on students, we have made the decision to follow the [guidance of the Vermont Department of Health and Vermont Agency of Education](#). We will continue to remain remote ready and adjust as necessary.

Please note that this model is only a draft and is based upon the model for our fall semester. It is understood that a significant amount of conversation is necessary for each of the following points at our school sites and that school based committees will be discussing what is necessary for successful implementation.

“Hybrid” Learning Option

4 days per week = in school

Wednesday Half day = online

“Remote” Learning Option

4 days per week = online

Wednesday Half day = online

- Attend school in person 4 days:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday.

- Online learning on Wednesdays will be supported by a Chromebook, which is provided by the school and travels back and forth from school/home in your child’s backpack. This will be largely asynchronous.
- Home health screening questions / temperature checks will continue to be done daily upon arrival to school.
- Masks will be worn by all students and adults, all day, except for breakfast, lunch and snack. Mask breaks are allowed when kids are outside. Masks will be provided for students who need them.
- Classroom and outdoor learning spaces will practice a minimum physical distancing of 3ft.x 3ft. for students, per the Vermont State Guidance. Sharing of learning materials or toys may occur if students wash hands before and after use.
- When in the building, students will largely remain in their classrooms throughout the day, and travel in the building is limited. This is determined by the [Strong and Healthy Start](#) phases.
- Students will work with chrome books at school and at home, and will be “remote ready” in the instance that school needs to close due to a spike in Covid cases as determined by the state, the Dept. of Health and the Superintendent.

- Learning happens Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday via live zoom lessons, online websites for academic practice, and off-screen projects.
- Wednesdays will continue to be a half-day of mostly asynchronous learning.
- 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.
- Based on the [WSESU policy](#), 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 on a daily basis.

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

Please be prepared to register for the bus for the second semester by clicking this [LINK](#) due by January 6th.

WSESU Family Guide

“Hybrid” or “Fully Remote” Learning Descriptions

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”. Class sizes will be limited so that a minimum of 3 foot distancing can be maintained per the [VT Health guidelines](#). Every effort will be made to maintain the class structure from the fall; however some staffing may need to shift based on student needs. In the event of a necessary staffing change, relationships between students and their teachers will be prioritized whenever possible. .

Specials will be offered to students synchronously and asynchronously, based on health and safety guidance. Further details will be available after the registration process is complete.

- **Masking:**

Everyone in school will need to wear a mask consistently throughout the day over the mouth and nose. Students will need an extra mask so they can change it if it gets dirty throughout the day. Masks can come off for eating indoors, during which time, students may be 3 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**

Staff and students will continue to follow VT Health Department guidelines for hand sanitizing and handwashing. High-touch areas such as door knobs etc will be cleaned frequently. Classrooms will be sanitized at the beginning and end of each school day. Hand sanitizer stations will be accessed upon entering the building at the start of the day, and each time we come back inside. Each building has worked to exceed published air quality standards and air circulation will be monitored regularly.

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

- **Curriculum:**

Schools across our district will maintain 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. A narrowed set of learning standards have been prioritized and are aligned with [this set of family resource guides](#).

- **Wednesdays:**

On Wednesdays all students will continue to attend school remotely. These days will be half-days and will include a morning meeting or greeting video from their teacher, optional office hours for check-ins and asynchronous enrichment offerings.

- **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 3 foot distance from each other. Hand sanitizer will be accessible during recess whenever needed and will be required before re-entering the building.

- **Student Quarantine:**

In the event your child needs to quarantine, missed days of in-person school will need to be counted as absences. Students will be counted as present when they participate in remote offerings on Wednesdays. We will do our best to provide opportunities for students to practice basic skills while they are away by providing a generalized menu of activities. It will not be possible for teachers to provide individualized plans for students at this time. It's important to communicate with your school nurse to review quarantine procedures and return to school plans.

- **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 the second semester of school. Please also be patient with us as we juggle the needs of families and available staff scheduling.

- **Special Education:**

Students receiving special education services as part of a hybrid model will receive services while attending school. Some services may also occur remotely in order to comply with health and safety standards in place at the time of delivery. Decisions about service delivery options will be made in collaboration with parents/guardians via a student's IEP team.

Remote-Only Model Description

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. Based on our experience this fall, we will continue to develop and improve our remote instructional design in accordance with current health and safety needs across our community.

- **Classroom / Teacher Assignments:**

Students who are **fully remote** will be assigned to small groups of educators who will guide learning daily. Every effort will be made to maintain the class structure from the fall; however some staffing may need to shift based on student needs. In the event of a necessary staffing change, relationships between students and their teachers will be prioritized whenever possible. .

- **Wednesdays:**

Wednesdays will continue to be half-days for remote students and will include a morning meeting or greeting video from their teacher, optional office hours for check-ins and asynchronous enrichment offerings..

- **Connection between remote and hybrid cohorts:**

Teachers will collaborate within teams to align instruction across remote and hybrid settings. In addition, school counselors will work to provide opportunities for students to connect informally with peers across settings.

- **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.

- **Scheduling**

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). In accordance with the state attendance guidelines, students will be expected to show evidence of between 2.5 and 5 hours of academic commitment per day. This includes both face-to-face meetings as well as independent work.

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

Please note: The following schedule is only a sample. While schedules may differ across classes, students will be offered daily math and literacy activities and science or social studies content across each week.

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

- **Curriculum:**

Schools across our district will maintain 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. A narrowed set of learning standards have been prioritized and are aligned with [this set of family resource guides](#).

- **Additional Support**

Each remote teacher will offer at least 30 minutes of office hours via video conference or phone each week in order to provide 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.

- **Special Education**

Students receiving special education services as part of a remote-only model will also receive services remotely. These services will be determined in collaboration with parents/guardians by each student's

IEP team. Limited exceptions may be made for in-person IEP services as determined by an individual IEP team as allowed under health and safety guidance.

- **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. Parents may need to facilitate learning experiences, support assignment completion and 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.