Greetings Steckel Students and Families,

I hope that you are enjoying your summer and this message finds you well. As we approach the start of a 2020-2021 school year, there are many challenges that we face as a school and a district. These challenges will be unlike any that I have experienced in my 15 years of education. Administratively, we have spent a great deal of time over the summer preparing for the upcoming school year in an effort to keep our students and staff safe. Below you will find important information regarding the start of school and some of the changes that are being implemented to assist in providing a safe educational environment for our students. It is important to understand that our plan may evolve as the summer ends and the school year begins. It is crucial that we have accurate contact information in PowerSchool. Please be sure to update your information by the beginning of the school year.

**Student Placements:**

Students are being placed into classrooms according to your chosen program for your child. Next week, parents will receive a letter in the mail with their access information for the Parent Portal. Access to the Parent Portal will begin on Friday, August 21st. When logging into the portal, parents will be able to view their child’s classroom placement and transportation information. All students will be assigned to buses; however, you may choose to transport your child to and from school instead of utilizing district transportation.

**Busing:** All students taking the bus will be required to wear a mask and will sit two to a seat wherever possible. Windows will be opened weather permitting. Also, elementary will start dismissal 15 minutes early to accommodate extra bus runs. You will receive more detailed information from the transportation.

**Parent Drop-Off/Pick-Up:** Parent drop off will stay the same, but parent pick up will change slightly. Parents will remain in their vehicle for both parent drop off and parent pick up. Parents will receive a bright green colored tag with a number for their car and students will receive a tag with a matching number for their backpacks. Parents will pull up in the loop the same way as parents drop off. A staff member will communicate with the

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**Steckel S.T.A.R.S. are Safe, Team Players, Achievers, Respectful, and Self-disciplined.**

The Whitehall-Coplay School District, and equal opportunity employer, will not discriminate in employment, education programs or activities based on sex, handicap or because a person is a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam Era. This policy of nondiscrimination extends to all other legally protected classifications. Publication of this policy in this document is in accordance with State and Federal laws including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. We further affirm that all curriculum offerings and student enrollment practices will be handled without discrimination based on sex, race, religion, national origin or non-job related handicaps or disabilities.
other staff member in the gym through a walkie talkie and this will alert them to send out the students. We will also stagger dismissal times and there will be assigned areas for students who are waiting in the gym. Please be patient as we all become accustomed to this process. Thank you for your support.

**Lunch and Food Services Information**

**Seating:**
The CDC recommends that students remain six feet apart when students are not wearing masks. As a result, students will be required to remain six feet apart while eating lunch. This will require us to use multiple large areas that can accommodate our needs during the lunch periods. Students will purchase lunch in the cafeteria and then proceed to one of the following areas: Main Cafeteria, Main Gym and/or empty special classrooms.

**New Policies:**
Students will be given a new school photo ID card on the first day of school that contains a barcode for purchasing breakfast & lunch. Students will no longer be allowed to enter their pin numbers at the cashier. This is being done to eliminate students from touching the same surfaces prior to eating.
Lunch deposits can be made online using myschoolbucks, or by dropping cash or checks in the cafeteria drop boxes at the entrance of the building. Please remember to have the student name & grade on checks or Student I.D. number.
There will be no cash accepted at the Point Of Sale Terminals. Students will need to have money in their account for snacks & beverages.

**Breakfast:**
Breakfast will be “grab and go.” There will be two areas that will serve breakfast once it begins in mid-September. Students will be permitted to purchase breakfast in the cafeteria.

**Hallway Travel:**
We are going to create directional hallways and will stagger dismissal times between lunches as needed to limit hallway congestion. We will review these changes with students/parents as we get closer to the start of the school year. Students should also plan on bringing their own water bottles to school. Only the refilling stations will be functional to minimize contact with water fountains.

**Classroom Seating:**
Students will be seated facing one direction in all classes. Student desks will be spaced out to the maximum extent possible. Both of these decisions are based on recommendations made by the CDC to provide safe classroom environments.

**Special Classes:**
Art, Library, Music, and Technology will all travel to the homeroom classes in order to limit the amount of traffic and movement in the hallways. Gym will also travel to the classroom and hold outdoor classes weather permitting.

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Cleaning/Sanitizing
Cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting will be performed in accordance with current CDC, and DOH guidelines. EPA approved products will be used in accordance with labeling requirements and staff will be trained on how to appropriately use these products.

Face Coverings
Students will be required to wear face coverings during the school day, except when they are eating lunch. Please see the link for acceptable guidance from PDE for face coverings. A doctor’s note will be required in order to be exempt from wearing a mask and will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Universal Face Coverings Order

Student Supplies
To the maximum extent possible, students will not be permitted to share resources. Students should be prepared for school and will be permitted to keep their backpacks with them in their classroom throughout the school day.

(Please see this list if your student is returning in the face to face traditional model)

2nd Grade Supply List

3rd Grade Supply List

Chromebooks
Chromebook distribution will occur on the first day of the school year for students who have selected to return to school for face-to-face instruction. Chromebook distribution will occur prior to the start of the school year for students who have selected the Whitehall “Learn at Home” program. Information regarding the distribution schedule will be coming in the next few days. Students who have chosen the Whitehall Cyber Learning Program receive devices for that program. Information regarding device distribution will be coming in the next few days.

Additional Questions
Please use the following form to submit questions that you may have to the HS administrative team. We will organize the questions by topic and respond to them in the coming days.

2020-2021 Parent Concerns & Questions

Kind Regards,

Cora Snyder, Principal
610-435-1521
snyderc@whitehallcoplay.org

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