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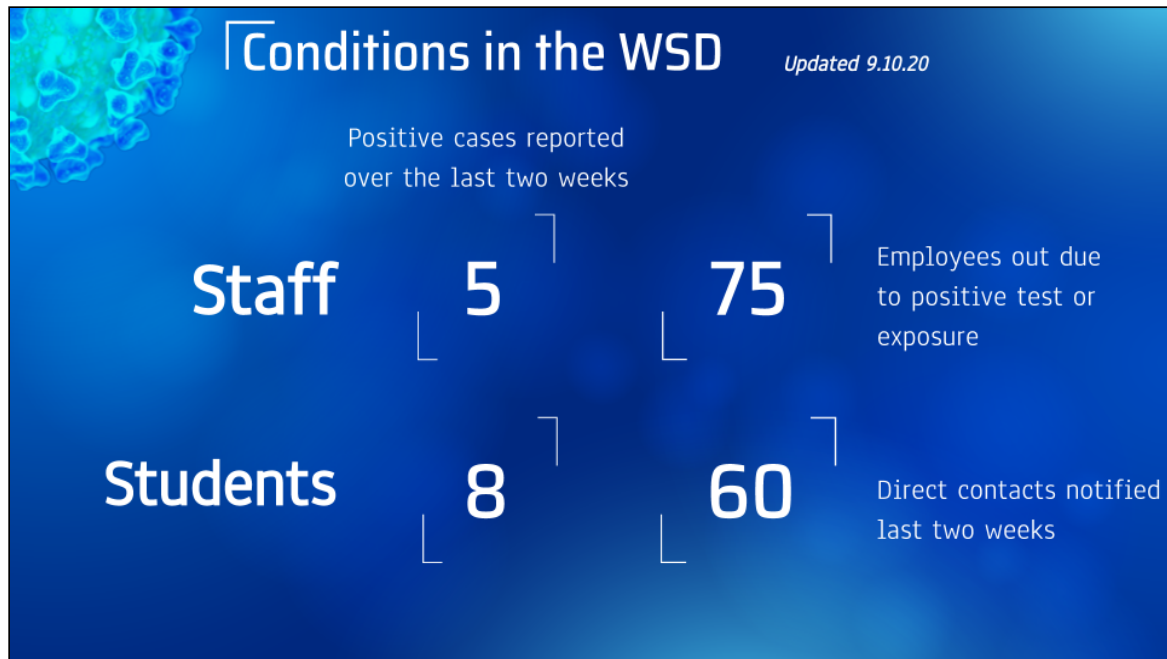


September 11, 2020

Thank You to Our District eNews Sponsor:



COVID-19 Updates



The Wentzville School District is committed to the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. In an effort to keep all stakeholders informed of the status of the pandemic in the District, the following data is being shared and updated regularly.

This is an update to the number of COVID positive cases and quarantines for both staff and students over the last two weeks. Please note the number of staff quarantines include non-school exposures, but the number of student quarantines are only those who were exposed at school. This information is updated daily for students and weekly for staff and it is posted under the [COVID updates on the WSD website](#).

As outlined in the [Roadmap to Reopening Plan](#), when the District is notified of a positive test with a staff member or student, we initiate an investigation and contact tracing in conjunction with the St. Charles County Department of Public Health. Anyone determined to be a close contact\* with the COVID-positive staff member or student **is called** and instructed to self-isolate and contact their physician. We also notify them that we have shared their contact information with the St. Charles County Department of Public Health and that they will be hearing from County Health with further instructions (typically between 24-48 hours). Parents of students in the class, on the bus, and on the team or in the club/activity (if applicable) who are **not** close contacts receive an email notification that there was a positive case in their child's class (or on their child's bus/team) and they should watch for symptoms. Our school buildings are cleaned nightly and deep cleaned and sanitized weekly on Wednesdays. When there is a student or staff positive case identified, a team of custodians is dispatched to that building to deep clean that day.

COVID-19 is thought to be spread via person-to-person contact through contaminated air droplets from coughing and sneezing by an infected person. As with controlling the spread of other viruses, we urge everyone to take the following preventive measures:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Wash your hands regularly, especially after using the restroom and before

preparing or consuming food. Using soap and hot water, wash for at least 20 seconds.

- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue away. If you don't have a tissue, cough/sneeze into your arm.
- As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.
- Maintain at least six feet away from those who do not live with you or wear a face covering.

The WSD will continue to work with the St. Charles County Department of Public Health to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff and families. If parents have any questions about the protocols related to positive cases in our schools, please contact your school nurse or the Director of Health Services, Laurie Castiaux.

\*A *close contact*, [as defined by the CDC](#), is someone who has been within six feet of the positive person while they were infectious for 15 cumulative minutes or more, even if one or both people were wearing face coverings. COVID-19 positive individuals are considered infectious from 48 hours before their symptoms began (or 48 hours before they were tested for COVID if they never had symptoms).

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **[Presentation about Metrics to the Board – August 20, 2020](#)**

## **Mask Updates**






## ACCEPTABLE MASKS

In accordance with CDC guidance, a well-secured cloth or mask that fits snugly against the face, covers an individual's nose & mouth, and is secured under the chin will be accepted.

**ACCEPTABLE:**

- (BEST) Cloth masks that fully cover nose, mouth, and chin
- (GOOD) Disposable cloth mask
- (OKAY) Neck Gaiters (as long as they cover the nose and mouth and are secured under the chin)
- (OKAY) Bandanas (offers the least protection because they do not fully secure under the chin)

**NOT ACCEPTABLE:**

- Face shields (unless combined with a cloth mask)
- Masks with exhalation valve or vent
- Masks made solely of materials like mesh or lace
- Knitted masks
- Masks with profanity or imagery that violates the student dress code

**PLEASE NOTE** WSD's guidelines on acceptable masks may change as the CDC and other medical organizations release new guidance.

## HELPFUL MASK TIPS

- Label your student's mask with their name.
- Provide a lanyard for use during meal times or other times when the mask is off.
- Launder masks regularly.
- Let your student choose a mask color or design they like.
- Model good mask-wearing to help your student embrace the habit.

Masks are required if social distancing cannot occur. If students (grades 3-6) and staff are less than six feet apart, masks are required. If students and staff are more than six feet apart, mask breaks can be permitted.

Additionally, we have received questions about neck gaiters specifically. Yes, there has been some guidance and reports that suggest neck gaiters are potentially not the best mask option, but they ARE acceptable as a face covering for students and staff.

### Moody's Investors Service Maintains Top Rating for the Wentzville School District

Moody's Investors Service has released its [Annual Issuer Comment Report](#) for the WSD. In the report, Moody's maintains an Aa2 rating on the District's outstanding general obligation debt, one of the highest ratings for any school district in Missouri. According to the report, the favorable rating reflects the District's "stable financial performance supported by maintenance of healthy reserves, a large and growing tax base, and above-average resident income levels." The report acknowledges the effects of the pandemic on the District's finances. "These attributes are weighed against an expected modest contraction of operating reserves in fiscal 2020 and 2021 because of the state's reduction of

education funding in response to pressured revenues during the coronavirus pandemic, though reserves are anticipated to remain healthy.”

The report also cites the District’s conservative fiscal management and governance as a reason for the strong rating. The District closed fiscal 2019 with \$67.5 million in general fund liquidity, representing 35.5% of general fund revenues. Details about the [District’s budget for 2020-2021](#), as well as [the full article](#) can be found on the WSD website.



[Read More](#) 

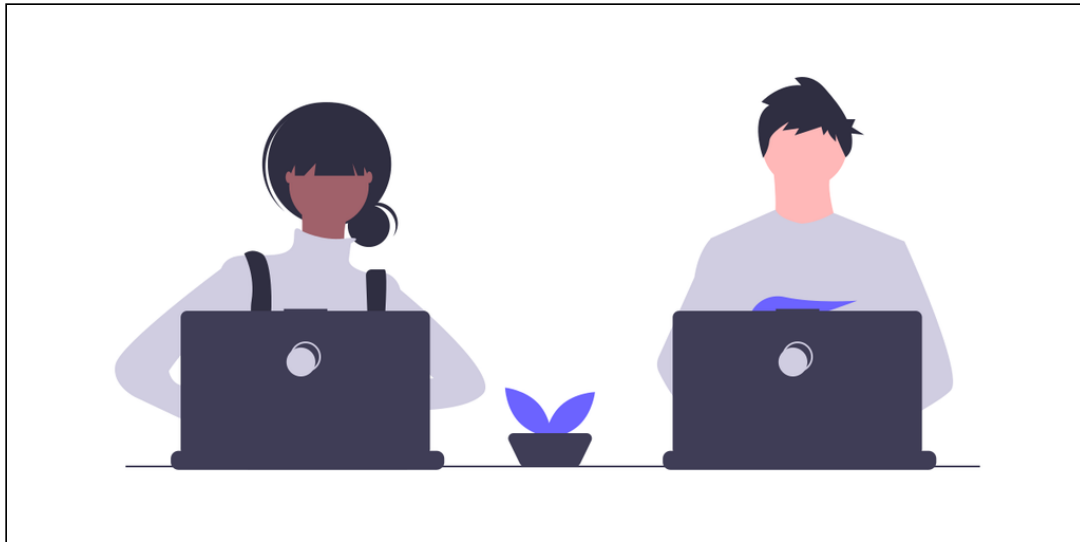
### Green Tree Art Teacher Wins Excellence in Education Award



Pam Winter, Green Tree Elementary art teacher, was honored as the Alpha Delta Kappa Excellence in Teaching Award winner for Missouri. During ADK’s All Regions Virtual Conference, Winter was named the winner for the entire South Central Region, which includes states Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas, as well as the country of Mexico. ADK is a teacher sorority that promotes leaders in the field of education, and Winter will receive \$500 for educational purposes for winning this award. Winter has worked for the WSD since 2005. "Allowing students to explore their own creativity brings me so much joy," she said. "Watching my kids grow, learn, and trust in their own creative endeavors is such an honor. I want my students to know they are creative and have the ability to change the world." [Read the full article](#) on the WSD website.

[Read More](#) 

### Tech Toolkit for Families and Guardians from Google



To help, Google has created the [Tech Toolkit for Families and Guardians](#) which provides resources for families and guardians on the Google tools their students are using to learn.

The toolkit includes a [Google for Education video series](#) with training videos on main Google products such as Google Classroom and Meet, a [Google terms glossary](#) which provides an overview of our products, a one-pager with [best practices for family engagement](#), and a [Tech FAQ](#) that answers the most frequently asked tech questions.

## Duello Administrators Visit Virtual Students



Duello Elementary Principal Dani Todd and Assistant Principal Alicia Hooton have set out to connect in-person with their virtual students. Before and after school, and on Wednesdays, Dr. Todd and Mrs. Hooton are dropping by for socially distanced 10-minute “Driveway Dates” with masks on, of course. “We realize the importance of all students and families feeling that they belong during this difficult time.” Todd explained, “It’s crucial that our virtual students have an opportunity to connect with us and feel our Duello love!” Dr. Todd and Mrs. Hooton have already visited 33 students and plan to visit 12 more students and their families next week.

## Welcome Back, WSD!

The WSD welcomed back students the week of August 24 both in person and virtually. Just over 21% of students are attending the District’s Virtual Academy, which is five days of virtual instruction by both WSD teachers and teachers contracted through FuelEd and Launch. For the 79% of students who chose in person, approximately half of those are attending in-person on Mondays and Tuesdays and the other half are attending in-person on Thursdays and Fridays. The District started the school year at Level 2: Blended Learning in an effort to promote physical distancing in what are typically crowded schools.

The District is committed to providing high quality instruction in a safe and clean learning environment and continues to closely monitor the conditions of the pandemic in our community and in our schools. “We look forward to returning to full, five-day in person instruction as soon as it is safe to do so,” shared Chief Communications Officer Mary LaPak. “In the meantime, we are so proud of our

students and staff for their flexibility and commitment to learning and growing in what is certainly a historic and unprecedented school year."

## The First Day of School in the WSD 2020-21



### Stories in the News about the first week of school:

- 8.24.20 [Students return to school across the region](#) - KMOV
- 8.24.20 [Wentzville superintendent discusses first day of blended learning](#) - KSDK
- 8.24.20 [WSD resumes school year with hybrid in-class learning](#) - KMOV
- 8.24.20 [Back to school without some of the traditions, but lots of new protocols](#) - Public Radio
- 8.24.20 [Many STL area schools start back today, some with blended learning](#) - Fox2
- 8.23.20 [Mike Bush talks with Dr. Curtis Cain about Back to School](#) - KSDK

### 2020-2021 Free & Reduced Meal Guidelines



The WSD has announced its revised free and reduced price policy for families unable to pay the full price of meals served in schools under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Board of Education have adopted family-size income criteria for determining eligibility. Visit the WSD website for full information on Free &

Reduced Meal Guidelines.





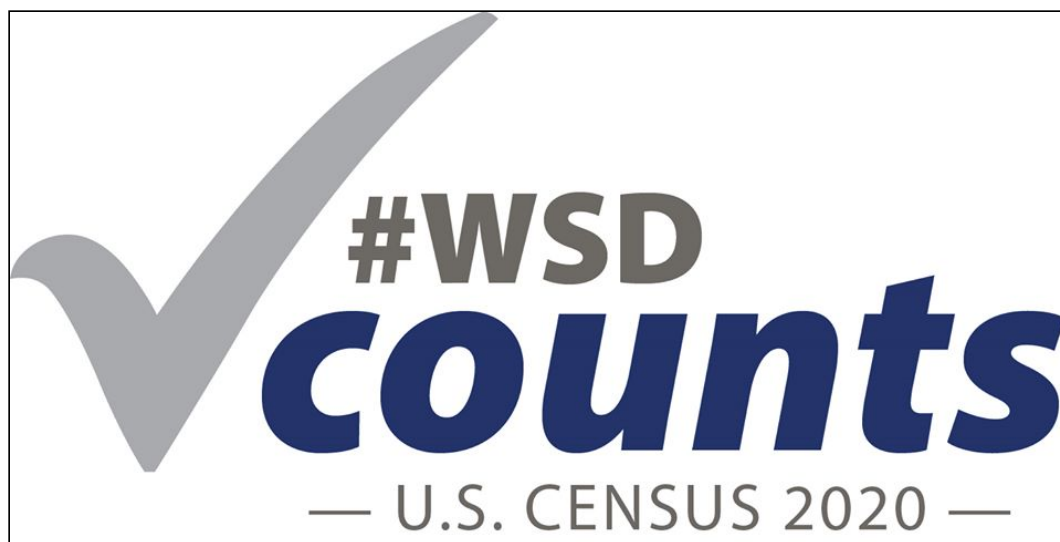
## Technology Support for Students and Parents



There will be many opportunities for students and parents to learn more about the technology tools that will be used this year, both in-person and virtually. Students will be provided with guidance from their teachers at the beginning of the school year to ensure they are prepared for any of our levels of instruction this year. Parents will have access to videos and learning modules to better understand how to support their students with the technology tools we use.

Students in grades K-5 will need access to a device at home to participate in the WSD Level 2 and Level 3 learning. Students in grades 6-12 will utilize their district-issued device. Please review our [technology specifications](#) to ensure you have what is needed to fully participate in the learning.

### 2020 Census



The response has been great for the 2020 Census, but not every one has been counted. There is still a chance to respond if you haven't. Every 10 years, the Constitution requires that all who reside in the United States on April 1 be counted. The 2020 Census counts the population in the United States and five U.S. territories and it is particularly important for school districts. The 2020 Census will inform funding for educational programs that benefit our children, such as special education, after-school activities and school meal programs. Each

home has received an invitation over the last few weeks to respond to a short questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail. The information you receive has a special Census ID number you will use to respond. All responses to Census Bureau surveys and censuses are confidential and protected under Title 13 of the U.S. Code. Under this law, the Census Bureau is required to keep respondent information confidential. Be sure to take the time to fill out the questionnaire - so everyone in the WSD counts! For more information or to fill out your questionnaire, visit [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov).

## Board Meeting Scheduled for September 17



The Wentzville School District Board of Education will be hosting its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2020, beginning at 7:00 p.m. In an effort to appropriately socially distance, the meeting will be held at Liberty High School. Board meetings are streamed live and recorded on the [WSD YouTube channel](#).



**STEP 6:  
EXPLORE, SHARE, & CELEBRATE**

**GO online with your kids and  
explore their digital world**  
**SHARE your own online experiences**  
**LEARN from each other and have fun**

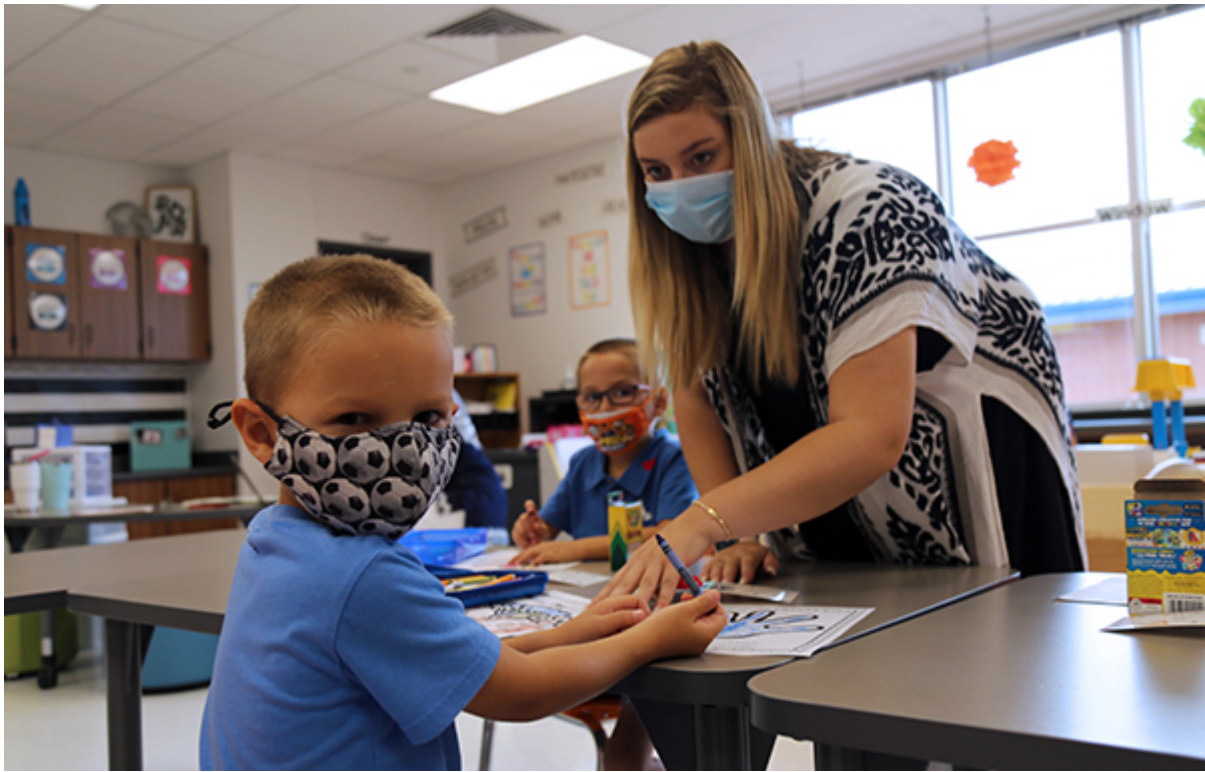
**Family Online Safety Institute**  
**Learn more at [fosi.org/parenting](https://fosi.org/parenting)**

**Tech Tip from WSD Technology Department – Tips for Good Digital Parenting (STEP 6)**

In [Episode 3](#) of the 7 Steps to Good Digital Parenting video series, viewers watch a family with older kids navigate social media with Steps 5 (Friend and Follow But Don't Stalk) and 6 (Explore, Share, and Celebrate). By respecting your child's online space and encouraging thoughtful interactions on social media, families can learn from each other and have fun online.

- Explore, Share, and Celebrate
- Go online with your kids and explore their digital world
- Share your own online experiences Learn from each other and have fun

Stay tuned for all seven tips to good digital parenting from the Family Online Safety Institute!



Connect with the WSD





## Amazon Smile



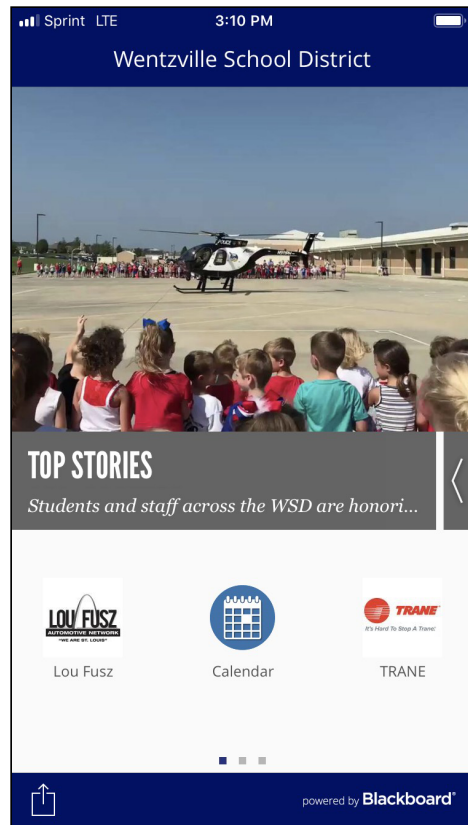
Did you know if you go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) you can choose a charity and Amazon will donate \$0.5% of what you purchase to that charity? You still have access to everything on Amazon at the same prices, but the charity of your choice will benefit from your purchase. Some WSD school PTAs have registered on [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and the WSD Foundation is a registered charity too. The WSD Foundation gives teachers and high school seniors over \$30,000 annually in mini grants to support innovative teaching strategies and scholarships to seniors for college. Support your school or the WSD Foundation when do your shopping throughout the year. For the direct link to support the WSD Foundation, go to [Amazon Smile](https://smile.amazon.com).

## Have You Downloaded the WSD App?

Are you new to the WSD? Be sure to download the app to have important information right at your fingertips. The app is available for both android devices and iPhones. On the app, you can:

- View news stories
- View calendar info
- View lunch menus
- Access school and staff info

- Receive important alerts
- View sports scores
- Locate Directory Information



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