

# Principal's Weekly Update

January 12, 2022

## Updated Midland County Schools COVID-19 Flowchart

[https://www.windover.org/files/news/180/Midland\\_Co\\_Schools\\_21\\_22\\_COVID\\_19\\_Flow\\_Sheet\\_Updated\\_1.11.22.pdf](https://www.windover.org/files/news/180/Midland_Co_Schools_21_22_COVID_19_Flow_Sheet_Updated_1.11.22.pdf)

## MDHHS Updates COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools

[https://masb.org/mdhhs-updates-covid-19-guidance-for-k-12-schools-2.aspx?\\_zs=QAGqj1&\\_zl=S3f78](https://masb.org/mdhhs-updates-covid-19-guidance-for-k-12-schools-2.aspx?_zs=QAGqj1&_zl=S3f78)



## Principal's Desk

## Attendance During the Coronavirus Pandemic

During this pandemic, it is more important than ever to monitor our students' attendance and take daily attendance to track how much instructional time in school our students are missing. The more school the students miss, the less they learn.

COVID has done a number on student and staff attendance. Chronic absences have skyrocketed. "A high level of chronic absence alerts schools, community partners, and families that one or more

positive conditions for learning are not in place."

This pandemic has exposed our students, staff, families, and the community to the harsh reality of health care, stable housing, living paycheck to paycheck due to inability to work because of illness, and/or sudden loss of income.

WHS is working hard to keep our students in school while keeping them safe. The importance of attending school cannot be underestimated. It provides students with the ability to learn more than the provided curriculum, it provides the ability to learn social-emotional skills, problem-solving skills, independence skills, and helps with psychological and mental growth.

Distance learning has shown us that many families do not have high-quality internet access, many do not have the technology needed to learn at home, or supports at home to help them successfully complete their assigned learning outside of school hours. Even with the exception of the school providing Chromebooks and boxes for internet access, many students have expressed difficulty staying engaged in their learning. This affects their attendance which in turn affects their learning.

Our Virtual Mentor and Dean of Students will be developing a plan to reduce the chronic attendance for our distance learners and use the plan should our school ever have to shut down due to high COVID numbers.

While we continue to work hard to reduce chronic attendance and improve our health and safety plans;

As of right now, WHS is:

- providing in-person learning
- following/updating COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan
- ordered COVID-19 Rapid Test (Arrival Date TBD)
- applied for Backpack Program (At-Home COVID Kits - Arrival Date TBD)
- following all safety plans
- permitting all students and staff to wear masks while in school and on the bus

Let's work together as a community to keep our students engaged in learning during these unprecedented times. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the school.

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Principal/CAO





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