

August 20, 2020

Dear White Pine families:



Thank you for your passion for and support of education at WPCS during this challenging time.

We understand there have been some concerns regarding the COVID-19 plan and wanted to clarify some information about the proposed schedule. Despite the many challenges we face, everyone is coming together to find the best solutions for our teachers, students, parents, administration, Board Members, and our Charter. Our school is dependent on state funding, and, for this reason, and many others, we must follow the law according to the state legislation. This is very important to understand.

Once again, here is our current Board-approved safety plan:

- Minimal Risk Plan 1 Green: Foundational Schedule
- Moderate Risk Plan 2 Yellow: “One Day Virtual” Schedule
- High Risk Plan 3 Orange: “Two Day Alternating” Schedule
- Critical Risk Plan 4 Red: “All Online” Schedule
- Additional option: White Pine Online GEM Prep Academy (School started on August 17 and the deadline to register was August 5, 2020)

Some parents have expressed concerns about the current status of the COVID Plan and their student attending in-person at this time. We have worked diligently to provide solutions for students at risk or in need of an online learning option provided by their currently assigned White Pine Teachers, but we do face some teacher and technology restrictions:

- Asking teachers to teach in-person concurrent with a live online lesson is nearly impossible with our current technology and time restraints. Teachers cannot duplicate themselves and be in two places at once. Simply setting up a laptop and running a live feed is not an effective, viable learning model.
- Recording lessons in the classroom and uploading files after class may cause privacy violations of in-person students and creates a file management nightmare with editing and uploading using our current technology and bandwidth.

## Solutions:

- If we opened today and are in “yellow” but you feel your child or family is at risk and must have an all-online learning environment, we want to work with you to resolve your concerns and meet your needs. Please make an appointment with me at this website: <https://calendly.com/drjoylea/covid> **I stand ready to help you find solutions that will best fit the needs of your family.**
- We are also seeking donations for upgraded technology and grant spending for online solutions so that our teachers can be better equipped with tools such as web cameras, upgraded laptops, upgraded cell phones, etc.
- Our teachers have been working all summer creating lessons, preparing for SeeSaw, and creating Google Classroom for learning in hybrid models. This time they will be so much better prepared than when we had little notice in March to transition all online. SeeSaw and Google Classroom are familiar platforms to all of our students, teachers, and parents.
- Elementary School has:
  - Google Classroom learning platform for content management/lessons.
  - SeeSaw allowing 5-minute pre-recorded lessons to be uploaded/viewed.
  - Google Meet-up and Zoom for live video during all online virtual learning.
- STEM Academy has:
  - Summit Learning Platform for content management and lessons.
  - Trained teachers who completed an extensive Summit training. Training for parents will be available before school starts. Stay tuned for more info.

I am a recent cancer survivor and fully understand the medical concerns and health limitations we are all facing. We are trying our best to keep our students and staff safe during these trying times. We have sanitation measures in place with many donations from our patrons. If you have questions about our safety measures, please contact me.

Thank you for being a part of White Pine. As your new superintendent, I am honored to join the WPCS family. I bring many years of experience in both public and charter education. I am grateful for Mr. Graham and Mrs. Tyler and the rest of our team who have worked tireless hours advocating for teachers and using the distant learning committee to create solutions with your student safety and achievement in mind.

My door is always open. May we all be blessed with health and safety as we weather this storm together, and may we extend grace and support to one another no matter the challenges or outcomes we face.

Sincerely, Dr. Joy J. Lea  
WPCS Superintendent  
(208) 715-9772 [leajo@wpcscougars.org](mailto:leajo@wpcscougars.org)