

Hello Rockin Gator Families,

To ensure your and our staff members safety please read the following regarding registration:

Registration is open and all students must have a completed registration to attend class regardless of face-to-face or virtually. If registration is not complete before the student's first day, Thursday, Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> your child will not be able to attend class.

We strongly encourage all necessary documents be emailed to our registration email address: Or you may schedule an appointment @ 662-781-1280 to complete the process.

On the students first day, registration will begin at 9:00 am and will be on a sign-in, first come, first served basis. You will be asked to sign in and wait inside your vehicle until you are called. One guardian is permitted in the office for registration.

Please make sure your child(ren) have been completely registered before August 6<sup>th</sup>. You will not receive teacher contact if registration is not complete.

The DCS Return-To-Learn Plan has been released, and we will adhere to all guidelines shared in that document. However, I am sure you have several questions. Hopefully, this letter will give you guidance, ease your fears, and clarify how WES students, parents, and staff will be affected.

Let me begin with we are so anxious and excited to see your little ones begin the new school year, whether in person or virtually. Believe it or not, we love and need our routine with your kiddos and we enjoy seeing them excited for the day to begin. Even though getting to this school year has already presented us with challenges, we are determined to make sure this school year is a productive and joyous one for your children.

**Walls Elementary School**  
**Return-To-Learn Plan**

1. **1. Distance Learning:** You have options! Please refer to the DCS website to get guidance for enrollment and the specific requirements for registration. While your student will not be on campus if you choose full distance learning, he or she will receive instruction from a teacher in the core subjects. Attendance will be taken. Grades will be given. Supplies will be needed. Teachers will be available. We understand that this is a personal decision based on the needs of your family, and there is no right or wrong decision. Parents can register by completing the application online at <https://www.desotocountyschools.org/distancelearning>. Questions about distance learning can be sent to [distancelearning@dcsms.org](mailto:distancelearning@dcsms.org). Applications must be completed by **Wednesday, July 22**. Distance learners must meet all of the same registration guidelines as traditional students. Students who participate in virtual learning will not be allowed to attend activity, recess, or lunch with peers.

While WES intends to begin the year with the traditional school model, you must be prepared for individual students or groups of students to shift to distance learning during the school year. Frequent changes could be made throughout the school year based on the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and community.

2. **Student Safety:** We will maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible at Walls. Social distancing best practices and considerations as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Mississippi Department of Health (MDH), and the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) will be in place and maintained from the time your student enters our building until he or she leaves. The safer the environment, the more students will learn. We have procedures in place for the following:
  - Arrival procedures
  - Classroom organization and desk arrangement
  - Line procedures
  - Lunch procedures
  - Handwashing procedures
  - Supplies procedure
  - Restroom procedures
  - Class change procedures
  - Dismissal procedures
3. **Arrival:** Please see the following changes to our arrival procedures:
  - School doors will open at 8:05. For their safety, students must remain in vehicles until the doors are opened at 8:05. Do not drop students off before 8:05. Every school in the district has new start times to accommodate changes due to social distancing.

- Duty personnel will continue to greet students with welcoming smiles and GATOR LOVE. However...
  - Duty personnel will no longer be opening car doors and/or unbuckling students. If your student needs to have the door opened or be unbuckled, we do ask that you park in the parking lot to walk your student to the door.
  - Only children will be allowed into the building. Parents are not permitted to walk students to classrooms.
  - Students will go directly to class when they enter the building.
  - Breakfast will be free to all students and delivered to your child's classroom daily if they choose to eat.
4. **Activities:** Each student on campus will receive activity time. The content, procedures, and materials have been adapted to meet the guidelines for social distancing. Several activity teachers will go to classrooms instead of students travelling to the activity rooms. Students will not be sharing any supplies in these classes.
5. **Lunch:** Students will be served lunch daily as usual. We will be using the gym for some students to dine as we can better socially distance, and some will eat in the cafeteria. In order to adhere to social distancing guidelines, we reduced the number of students in the cafeteria. Teachers will follow the lunch schedule with locations given by administration.
6. **Recess:** Students will have a recess time with their class. Each class will have its own area for play and will not mix with other classes. Students will remain with their class the entire time.
7. **Dismissal:**
- Car riders will be dismissed first.
  - The same procedure of not touching car doors will apply during dismissal.
  - Persons picking up student(s) MUST have the WES car rider tag with the student's number hanging from the rearview mirror.
  - If a different person is picking up, and they do not have a car rider tag, they must be prepared to pull over and show ID to confirm they are on the student's pick up list. This may take extra time so they should be prepared to wait.
  - Daycares will load & buses will load and leave last.
  - Each student will sit in his or her designated area until called by an adult.
  - Please be patient with us as we iron out the kinks.
8. **Visitors:** There will be no visitors permitted into the building without an appointment and prior approval from the principal unless there is an emergency. Visitors must set an appointment to meet with administration, teachers, the counselor, or any other personnel.

**9. Supplies:**

- Students are required to have his or her own set of supplies DAILY. There will be no community or shared supplies.
- Students will be permitted to bring a backpack to keep his or her belongings.
- Cubbies have been removed from rooms to create more space for social distancing. So it is important to clean and organize the backpack nightly so as not to create clutter within the classroom.
- Please add a clear water bottle to your supply list. Water fountains will be available for use as of now and will be cleaned regularly. To eliminate the need for the water fountain, provide your child with a water bottle that can be refilled. Water will be the only drink permitted in the water bottles.

**10. Academic and behavioral expectations:** The academic and behavioral expectations of DCS and WES remain the same. We will provide your student with the best education in an environment that is safe and conducive for learning. We ask that you continue to partner with us to uphold these high standards.

**11. Masks:** Masks are strongly recommended for students though not required. Though we will not be supplying each student with a mask, our nurse will have some for students who may be ill. There may be times in the classroom/building where a mask is needed, but know that your child will not have to wear a mask all day long.

**12. Support services (IEP, EL, Dyslexia):** Services will be rendered within the building for face-to-face students. I will send more information regarding virtual students as it is received.

**13. Open House:** Will be virtual and placed on the website when complete. Be on the lookout. We will have a drive by school supply drop off for Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade only. Supply drop off dates will be placed on the website as well. Grades 2-5 may bring in supplies daily over the first week of school.