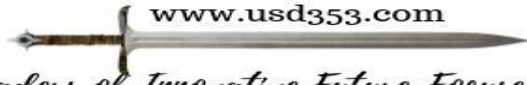


# WELLINGTON School District

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*Leaders of Innovative Future-Focused Real World Learning*



Dear USD 353 and Wellington Community,

At their February meeting, the State Board of Education adopted recommendations to accept modifications to the Navigating Change gating criteria, reflecting information from the health professionals' advisory team. The modified Gating Criteria allows for middle schools and high schools to remain in an in-person or hybrid learning environment when county metrics recommend a remote-only learning environment if school districts meet mitigation protocols. Additionally, Sumner County and Wellington COVID-19 cases continue to decline, causing our gating criteria to be in the green zone.

Therefore, at tonight's BOE meeting, the USD 353 BOE voted to follow these recommendations and open our secondary schools, grades 6-12, full time (Monday-Friday) **beginning on Monday, March 22nd**. Please note that remote learning IS still an option for students.

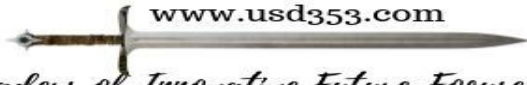
The BOE also voted, based on medical recommendations and guidance, to **suspend** temperature checks in the mornings at schools. Drop off procedures will still remain the same at all schools.

The following is important information you need to know regarding the mitigation protocols **for students grades 6-12:**

- Arrival time each morning will be at 7:30am for students eating breakfast and 7:50am for other students. Students will be released at 3:20pm for WHS and 3:25pm for WMS.
- Masks will still be required for all students
- Rapid testing will be available for use as needed by USD 353 Medical Staff. At this time, we are not going to require weekly testing for students or staff unless our community gating criteria moves back into the red zone.
- Social distancing will be enforced when possible, however cannot be guaranteed in every classroom or circumstance. When social distancing is not possible, students will be grouped in small groups or cohorts of 5 students or less. This will lessen the number of students having to quarantine in case of COVID-19 exposure.
- Students will still be offered both breakfast and lunch (free through the end of the year). Lunches will be served at staggered times to help ensure social distancing in our lunch rooms.
- All building guidelines such as parent/guest entry, etc. will remain the same as during a hybrid schedule. We are still attempting to limit visitors in our buildings.

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If you have any questions specific to your student(s) school, please contact that school's principal. Additionally, if you would like to change your student(s) learning commitment (on-site or remote) Please contact your student's school by the following date:

**Elementary(K-5)- March 11th**

**Secondary(6-12)- March 23rd**

I want to continue to remind everyone that moving to remote learning for the district or an individual building could be necessary due to a cluster or staffing issue.

Additionally, we began our first rounds of vaccinations for USD 353 staff members on Friday, March 5th. Thank you to our school nurses and the Sumner County Health Department for all of your work in coordinating this.

We are cautiously optimistic as our community numbers continue to decline, and excited to finally welcome all of our Secondary students back into our buildings full time.

Enjoy Spring Break!

Adam Hatfield  
Superintendent, USD 353