

**LIMESTONE WALTERS**  
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**Tim Dotson**  
**Superintendent**

**Ken Herz**  
**Board President**

July 24, 2020

Dear Limestone Walters Families,

As we approach a new school year, we know that there are several questions surrounding how the year at Limestone Walters will be structured. The Return to School Committee has been working diligently on a plan to return to school. However, we realize that *no plan* is going to be the perfect solution, but we also know that school will not look “normal” until a vaccine or a successful treatment is in place. We also know that we must remain in Phase 4 of Governor Pritzker’s Restore Illinois Plan for in-person instruction to take place. Finally, our plan *must* follow the guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education. The link to that guidance was shared in a previous letter but the basic principles are the following:

1. Require use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including face coverings
2. Prohibit more than 50 individuals from gathering in one space
3. Require social distancing be observed as much as possible
4. Require that schools conduct symptom screenings and temperature checks or require that individuals self-certify that they are free of symptoms before entering school buildings
5. Require an increase in school-wide cleaning and disinfection

From the initial Parent Survey on July 8, 86% of the 176 responses indicated they preferred in-person instruction. Regarding transportation, 42% of the respondents indicated that they would utilize district transportation. We then performed an analysis on our current bus routes and found that no bus would have over 50 students. Taking into account the ISBE Guidance, along with the parent survey feedback, our committee consisting of parents, Board members, staff, and the administration have constructed a plan that keeps both students and staff safe, while still offering two types of instruction. Families may choose from in-person instruction or remote learning.

**In-person Instruction** – For families that choose in-person instruction, it will be a modified format from a traditional day. Hours of operation will be from 7:50 – 11:50 AM, Monday through Friday. The core subjects of ELA/reading, math, science, and social studies will be taught during the day. Students will remain in their classrooms and the teachers will move to meet them. No lockers or hallway storage will be used. Some staff will be repurposed to help with class size. To account for the 5 clock hours needed for a school day, the remote learning hour after the 11:50 dismissal will be for, but not limited to, PE, art, homework, AR, and

additional online options with teachers. That hour can be arranged on the student's own time. Lunch will be provided "to go" for families that qualify for free and reduced lunch and any other families that would like to order a lunch.

**Remote Learning** – For families that choose the Remote Learning Option, it will look much different from last spring. There will be options to view live class presentations, or watch the recorded presentation later. TeacherEase will have a communication component that allows information from all teachers to be accessed in one location. Teachers will be available Monday through Friday from 1:30 – 3:00 PM to provide one-on-one assistance through ZOOM or GoGuardian platforms. Remote learners will follow the same curriculum as in-person learners. The expectations for both sets of students will be the same. There will also be an attendance component for remote learning so teachers can check in with students. Families that choose Remote Learning will be making a **9 -week commitment**.

**Grading will be traditional for both in-person and remote learning.**

As more guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health becomes available, our plan may need to be modified. The other components of our return to school plan are listed below.

We understand that this situation is not what any of us envisioned as we begin preparing for a new school year. However, our hope is to have students in school learning and doing it safely.

Thank you for patience, understanding, and support.

Sincerely,

Tim Dotson  
Superintendent

## LW RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

<b>In-Person Instruction</b>	<b>District Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hours 7:50 – 11:50 AM, M - F</li><li>• Lunch served “to go”</li><li>• Focus on core curriculum of ELA/reading, math, science, and social studies</li><li>• PE/Art/Music/AR – extended to remote learning</li><li>• Teachers available 1:30 – 3:00 PM</li><li>• <b>Traditional Grading</b></li></ul>
<b>Remote Learning</b>	<b>District Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TeacherEase will be the formal form of communication</li><li>• Presentations of “live” and recorded lessons available</li><li>• A daily attendance component will be incorporated to check-in with students</li><li>• Focus on core curriculum of ELA/reading, math, science, and social studies</li><li>• PE/Art/Music/AR – extended to remote learning</li><li>• Teachers available 1:30 – 3:00 PM for individual help and digital communication (ZOOM, GoGuardian)</li><li>• Some packets and other supplies may need to be distributed/picked up</li><li>• <b>Traditional Grading</b></li><li>• <b>9-week commitment</b></li></ul>

<p><b>Social Distancing &amp; Safety</b></p>	<p><b>District Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District will observe social distancing as much as possible in all areas</li> <li>• Teachers will rotate to classrooms</li> <li>• No lockers or hallway storage will be used</li> <li>• Students will be required to stay in their assigned area/seat</li> <li>• Instruction on hand washing and the use of hand sanitizer will be emphasized</li> <li>• Personal student water bottles are encouraged. Water fountains will not be available.</li> <li>• Students and staff should abstain from physical contact, including, but not limited to, handshakes, high fives, hugs, etc.</li> <li>• No visitors will be allowed in the building for safety reasons</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Face Coverings</b></p>	<p><b>District Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students and staff must wear a face mask at all times</li> <li>• The state will provide each student with a face mask</li> <li>• Students who arrive at school without a face mask will be sent home</li> <li>• Students must wear face masks that properly fit over the nose and mouth</li> <li>• Students and staff do not need to wear a face mask outside if social distancing is maintained</li> <li>• Face masks must adhere to the current dress code policy</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students must wear a face mask on the bus</li> <li>• <b>For additional information, visit <u><a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html">CDC:Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)-Cloth Face Covers</a></u></b></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html</a></li> <li>• Limestone Walters requires a physician’s note for students or staff that are unable to wear a face mask for medical reasons. The physician’s note should also indicate if the student can wear a face shield in lieu of the face mask.</li> <li>• Staff members may wear a face shield while teaching as long as he/she is 6 feet away from students</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Symptom Screenings</b></p>	<p><b>District Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents will do daily a symptom check each morning by verifying their child does not have the following symptoms: <b>fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, muscle/body aches, known close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19</b></li> <li>• Each child’s temperature will be taken and recorded as they enter the building</li> <li>• Any student with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be isolated and sent home immediately</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If a student is not feeling well, he/she will be asked a series of questions to determine their symptoms</li><li>• Students displaying symptoms will be isolated and sent home immediately based upon the IDPH guidelines</li></ul>
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<p><b>Prepare for sick student/staff</b></p>	<p><b>District Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limestone Walters will follow the guidance of the IDPH and also work in conjunction with the Peoria County Health Department</li><li>• If a parent calls their child in sick, they will be questioned on symptoms of the illness</li><li>• Parents should not send students to school with any symptoms related to COVID – 19</li><li>• If your child is sent home, parent contact will be made by the school administration before the child can return to school</li></ul>
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**School-wide cleaning and disinfecting**

**District Plan**

- Follow CDC guidelines for approved cleaning products and appropriate cleaning and disinfecting techniques
- Prohibit sharing of items or supplies including toys, art, and science supplies, electronic devices, etc.
- Increase frequency of cleaning and disinfecting in high-touch areas such as restrooms, door handles, electronics, common areas, handrails, etc.
- Water fountains will not be available