



Weddington High School
Jay Jones, Ed.D. - Principal
4901 Monroe Weddington Road
Matthews, North Carolina 28104
Phone 704 296-6319
Fax 704 708-6218
<https://www.ucps.k12.nc.us/Domain/55>

July 22, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family to be healthy and happy. I am extremely honored to again serve as the principal of Weddington High School. For two decades, Weddington High School has been an extremely successful school by many measures. It is certainly our collective duty as a school community to uphold that tradition of excellence. As we move toward August, it is now time to bring into focus the adventures, challenges, and joys that will come with what will be a very unique school year. So, on behalf of the faculty and staff, I would like to welcome you and your child to the 2020-2021 school year. We welcome you to a truly remarkable school with talented and dedicated students, parents, and staff members.

Our opening school day on Monday, August 17 will be here before we know it. The Weddington High School learning community is excited to extend a special welcome to our incoming freshmen as well as our sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are new to Weddington High School.

Over the summer, we have devoted a great deal of time to reflect upon and review many sources of data which give us insight into the 2019-2020 school year and help to provide direction for the 2020-2021 school year at Weddington High School. All of these data sources confirm that WHS is truly an exceptional school. As is always the case, though, we need to continue to aim for even greater heights. Let's commit to operating in a continuous cycle of improvement in all that we do. To aid us in keeping our focus on our core business of growing students and maintaining a sense of urgency to promote the success of each of our students, we will continue to utilize the following mantra to guide us in all that we do at Weddington High School:

STUDENT CENTERED, FUTURE FOCUSED!

I encourage each of you to take this mantra into account in your work with your child and in any school business to which you must tend. We will not be the best school that we can be unless we have all stakeholders (staff, students, parents, and community members) on board with the idea that our purpose is all about *preparing students to have the brightest future possible*. In addition to this mantra, please also be aware that each and every Weddington High School staff member will be held to three core expectations in all of our school interactions and business. These three core expectations are for every WHS staff member to

Growing Possibilities...



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be **Positive**, **Professional**, and a **Problem-Solver**. Our vision is that these expectations will characterize your image of all WHS faculty and staff members.

In addition to the mantra and core expectations above, we will be committing our focus to a few important areas which we feel have a direct correlation with individual student growth and achievement in the coming school year. Those areas of focus are **Staff and Student Health and Safety**, **Staff-Student Relationships**, **the Home-School Connection**, **Use of Canvas to Facilitate Learning**, **Student Engagement in Learning**, and **Optimal School Culture for All Students**. Please join us in contributing to these areas which will undoubtedly have a strong impact upon your child's experience at Weddington High School.

In addition to what you may already know, the following information may be useful as you anticipate the year:

Summer Reading: Summer reading and assignments for various classes are posted in the Announcements section of the WHS website (<https://www.ucps.k12.nc.us/Domain/55>).

Health and Safety Plan:

In the coming school year, our school district's health and safety plan will be driven by requirements handed down by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Highlights of our plan, which is specific to Union County Public Schools and Weddington High School, include the following:

-Approximately 25% of students will attend school on a daily basis. **The student assignments are as follows: Last Names A-D...Monday; Last Names E-K...Tuesday; Last Names L-Q...Wednesday; Last Names R-Z...Thursday**

***Friday: remote learning for all students.**

***Please note that Weddington High School reserves the right to reassign a student to a different day of the week in order to properly balance classes for social distancing purposes. Such changes may occur prior to the beginning of the school year, and impacted families would be contacted by a Weddington High School representative.**

- Every student and staff member entering the building will be subject to a temperature screening and a set of health-related questions.
- All students and staff members will be required to wear masks while in the school building.
- One-way hallway movement during major student transition times will be utilized.
- Social distancing will be facilitated in all settings including classrooms and the cafeteria.

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-Our school counselors will make a concerted effort to proactively monitor the social/emotional health of our students, and they will be as accessible as possible to meet student needs.

-All parent meetings (including 504 and IEP meetings) will occur virtually.

-Only essential visitors will be permitted to enter the school building during the day. These visitors will be subject to a temperature screening and set of health-related questions.

-Parents will not be permitted to drop lunches, homework assignments, and other materials to students during the school day. Drop-offs of eyeglasses and medications will be permitted.

Academic Delivery Plan

Through the emergency remote learning last school year, we learned a lot about remote instruction. We aim to improve upon our delivery model and methods in the coming school year. Some things to expect are as follows:

-To begin the school year, our staff will provide remote learning in a largely on-demand format. This will give our staff the opportunity to focus on the students who are "face to face" in the classroom. The goal of Weddington is to continue to move toward more live, remote learning as the school year progresses. It is important to keep in mind that our teachers do not have experience with serving students in both a "face to face" environment and a remote environment simultaneously. Mastering the facilitation of this type of academic delivery will take time. We realize that families would prefer live interactive instruction on a daily basis, and that is something that Weddington High School will continue to strive toward as the year progresses.

-On Fridays, our staff will provide a blend of live and on-demand remote learning. Without students in the building, this will be a great day to conduct live instructional opportunities with a particular focus on small groups. Additionally, our staff will provide office hours to connect with students and parents to support the remote learning efforts.

-All students will have approximately 90 minutes of daily academic content expectations (includes live, on-demand, and homework) for each class on each day.

-WHS will utilize Canvas and Microsoft Teams as the primary platforms for learning. Canvas will contain recordings of lessons, resources for learning, quizzes, and opportunities for student collaboration. This platform offers a user app that is very user friendly for students. Microsoft Teams will allow our teachers and students to interact in real time.

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Orientation Information: Due to COVID-19, we will not hold traditional orientation/open house sessions this year. We will share with all stakeholders a video geared toward orienting students and parents to the WHS experience. The video will include information about leadership, guidance, clubs, transportation, student parking, boosters, lockers, and more. We will push this video out at some point during the week of August 3. For students who are new to the building, we will have plenty of staff members across the building assisting students to find their classes during the first couple of weeks of school.

Student Schedules: Our school counselors are working tirelessly through the process of finalizing student schedules. We are not able to share student schedules at this time because the parent input around Virtual Academy participation will impact these schedules. Schedules will be mailed to families during the week of August 10.

School Hours: Students may enter the building each day at 7:30 a.m. Entrances will remain locked until that time. Upon entry, all students will be temperature screened, and then students will proceed directly to their first period classes. The school day ends at 2:55 p.m. In person tutoring before and/or after school will not be available.

Arrivals and Departures of Car Riders: At arrival time, students are to be dropped off in front of the school. Please help us to keep car traffic flowing efficiently by facilitating the quick but safe exit of your child from your car and by pulling your car up as far as possible in the line. Students will enter through the main entrance of the school. At dismissal time, students will exit the building from the main entrance. School personnel will be supervising the process, but as is the case with arrival, we encourage you to stress with your child/children the importance of safe habits. Please take note that parent parking and student drop off/pick-up are not permitted in the student parking lot, staff lot, or the church across the street during arrival and dismissal times.

Bus Transportation: Students will load and unload buses on the side of the school at the bus lot entrance. Students will be directed to appropriate areas. Buses will typically depart Weddington High School around 3:15 each afternoon. However, as we settle into the routines of a new school year, it is very possible that buses will be delayed during the first couple of weeks of school. Please also note that due to unforeseen mechanical, driver, and/or other issues, bus runs may be delayed on any given day throughout the school year. We will obviously do everything in our power to minimize such instances. If your child is a bus rider, you will receive a transportation letter prior to the first day of school on August 17. The letter will include information about your child's assigned bus number, pick-up time, and drop-off time. Mr. John Grexa, assistant principal, will be overseeing bus transportation at Weddington High School this year. Questions regarding this area should be directed to him.

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Visitor Procedures: All visitors to the school must check-in at the main office during the hours of 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., which are the main office hours on days that school is in session. Again, only essential visitors will be permitted to enter the school building during the day. These visitors will be subject to a temperature screening and set of health-related questions.

Cafeteria: The Weddington High School cafeteria produces healthy and hot meals for our students. Children and families are encouraged to utilize this service. Breakfast is served from 7:30-8:10. Student breakfast costs \$1.25, and student lunch costs \$2.50 (\$.40 reduced price). If you have any questions about the cafeteria or your child's account, please contact our cafeteria manager at 704-708-6266.

Guidance Department: In the 2020-2021 school year, guidance counselors will provide service to students as follows:

9th and 10th Grade Students

*Last Names A-L: Ms. Rebecca Wiles (rebecca.wiles@ucps.k12.nc.us)

*Last Names M-Z: Mr. Quincy Smith (quincy.smith@ucps.k12.nc.us)

(Please note that Ms. Wiles will not begin her tenure with us at WHS until August 6. Up until that time, 9th and 10th grade families with last names A-L should reach out to Dr. Mary Jordan (department chairperson) with inquiries and needs.)

11th and 12th Grade Students

*Last Names A-G: Ms. Mallika Rajan (mallika.rajan@ucps.k12.nc.us)

*Last Names H-Q: Mrs. Jackie Washington (jackie.washington@ucps.k12.nc.us)

*Last Names R-Z: Dr. Mary Jordan (mary.jordan@ucps.k12.nc.us)

Communication: We will frequently be sending school news and announcements via eblast, so it is critical that we have accurate email addresses for parents on file. To that end, *please be sure to update your contact information, if necessary, through the Quick Links section on our school website.*

Please also regularly visit our school website (<http://unioncounty.schoolwires.net/Domain/55>) to stay in tune with news and information related to your child's experience here.

Finally, Twitter is an important communication tool that we utilize to convey important school information. Follow us @WHSWarriors

On each school day, you may reach a school administrator between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the following number: 704-296-6319.

My email address is as follows:

jay.jones@ucps.k12.nc.us . The email addresses of the assistant principals are as follows:

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Student last names A-G-Mrs. Marni Menkin (marni.menkin@ucps.k12.nc.us);
Student last names H-N-Mr. Jeff Brookshire (thomas.brookshire@ucps.k12.nc.us);
Student last names O-Z-Mr. John Grexa (john.grexa@ucps.k12.nc.us). In your correspondence with school administration, please direct questions, comments, and inquiries to the appropriate administrator. **Please note the request to contact your child's teacher(s) prior to contacting an assistant principal if your question or concern may be addressed by the teacher(s) and to contact your assigned assistant principal prior to contacting me if your question or concern may be addressed by the assistant principal.**

On behalf of the Weddington High School faculty and staff, I would like to say thank you for trusting us with your children. We vow to be positive professionals who do our very best to nurture strong relationships with both you and your child as we keep them safe and strive together to maintain the tradition of excellence here at Weddington School.

Best wishes for a great school year!

Jay Jones

Dr. Jay Jones, Principal

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