

LWSD ALL STAFF

Feb. 22, 2021

Dear LWSD Staff,

LWSD and LWEA released the following information to the community on Monday. In addition, we have added information below relevant for staff.

***Lake Washington School District and Lake Washington Education Association Joint Press Release***

Feb. 22, 2021

*Lake Washington School District jointly with Lake Washington Education Association are excited to release pertinent details for the second through fifth grades elementary learning model transition to in-person or continued remote learning services. We happily welcomed kindergarten and first grade on February 18. Dr. Jon Holmen, Superintendent stated, "We appreciate the partnership with all stakeholders to successfully transition our Kindergarten and First grade students to their new learning models. We are grateful to be able to provide both in-person and remote learning services for our students." Dr. Holmen went on to say, "As a District we continue to be committed to the highest of health and safety standards for our students and staff."*

*After exploration of various creative models, we settled on AB/AB hybrid model (Group A Monday and Thursday mornings; Group B Tuesday and Friday) with students receiving In-Person instruction two mornings a week following the same start and end times as Kindergarten and First grades. At-home learning will occur the other three days a week. Our ability to implement other created solutions was limited by physical distancing protocols, health and safety requirements, transportation hurdles, staffing resources, and financial considerations.*

*Lake Washington School District will continue the staggered return of students beginning March 18-19 (AB) for second and third grade and March 29-30 (AB) for fourth and fifth grade following a phased in approach in accordance with public health guidance. We know that families and staff need dates and details to plan for this transition. Together, we are working to meet that need and release information. Based on survey data from families, approximately half of our students will remain in remote learning. Class rosters will be adjusted to meet health considerations, staffing availability, and family requests for in-person or remote learning. Like the return of kindergarten and first grade, second through fifth grade students will participate in asynchronous learning for a week prior to the return date. District administration and building principals will send additional information to families as it becomes available.*

*These outcomes are results of our on-going collaborative planning which requires finalization between the District and the Executive Committee of Lake Washington Education Association. The parties historically use a problem-solving approach to dive deeply into issues and reach consensus. LWEA and LWSD acknowledge and appreciate the high-quality work and solutions achieved through this process. We continue to negotiate the impacts of these changes to create a final negotiated agreement.*

*LWEA President Howard Mawhinney stated, "The District and the Association have a long-standing tradition of student-focused, collaborative planning. We believe the added effort required of this*

*approach leads to superior results. On behalf of our 2,100 members, I want to thank district leadership for supporting this essential work.*

*Moreover, I want to thank the 100+ LWEA members who have sacrificed their evenings and weekends to participate. Their expertise has had a significant, positive impact on our ability to ensure that all students, including nearly 50% of students who are electing to continue remote learning, will experience safe, well-functioning classrooms and a meaningful educational experience."*

*We appreciate the community's understanding during these challenging times.*

**Additional information for staff:**

LWSD/LWEA realize that returning over 8,000 students to our campuses in a phased in approach impacts numerous staff members, not only those who teach in the classroom. As you know, the reintroduction of kindergarten and first grade four (4) mornings a week began on February 18. On March 18 we will add second and third grade; then on March 29 we will complete our phase in of elementary with 4-5 grades. Second through Fifth graders who select in-person instruction will be on the AB/AB Hybrid model attending school two mornings per week for approximately 3.5 hours.

We continue to negotiate the details of the instructional day and the impacts of that schedule prioritizing health and safety. The parties realize that decisions made effect the entire system including those remaining remote, those focused on 6-12 details, and the variety of departments within the District.

We are hopeful that by releasing the educational model and the return dates information buildings can start working on class rosters, staff assignments, and building scheduling concerns that will address localized situations. Other departments like transportation, data services, food services, and custodial services can plan for the adjustments. The parties continue to meet and collaboratively problem-solve the impact on working conditions. We hope to finalize a comprehensive agreement soon.

Thank you for your efforts and attention to our students and community during this on-going pandemic.

**Dr. Jon Holmen**  
**Superintendent**  
Lake Washington School District  
[jholmen@lwsd.org](mailto:jholmen@lwsd.org) | 425-936-1257



**Howard Mawhinney – President**  
**Lake Washington Education Association**  
Office: 425.822.3388  
Mobile: 425.765.0555

