

Waterloo Middle School School Reopening Plan August 2020



Be Respectful
Be Responsible
Be Engaged
Be Safe

Introduction

All of us at Waterloo Middle School are looking forward to having students return to school in some capacity in September. While we know it will not be a “normal” start to the school year, we are committed to doing our best to keep our students healthy and safe and to support their learning and growth. This plan details important areas that are continuously being assessed for a safe reopening of our school. Sections are included on the following topics: School Schedule, Health and Safety, Communication with Families, Social/Emotional Well-Being, Teaching and Learning, Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism, Transportation, Breakfast and Lunch, and Extracurricular Activities.

Input from all stakeholders (parents/guardians, students, staff, community members) has been and will continue to be very important as we prepare for the upcoming school year. If you are reviewing this document and have a question about anything or notice that something important has not been addressed in the plan, please contact the school.

School Schedule

To ensure the safety of students and staff, the Waterloo Central School District will be using a “hybrid” scheduling model this coming school year. This will allow for social distancing on buses, in classrooms and in hallways as not all our students will be present in the school building at the same time.

Waterloo Middle School students will be divided into two groups, with students in Group 1 in school on Mondays and Tuesdays and students in Group 2 on Thursdays and Fridays. On the days that students remain at home, they will be expected to participate remotely in their classes using their school laptops. Most students will participate in remote instruction from home on Wednesdays. Some students may attend school in-person on Wednesdays, depending on their academic needs.

When students are at home, they will be expected to follow their school schedule and log into their classes at the appropriate times according to the daily schedules shown below. Whether in school or at home, our students need this structure to help them be successful in their learning.

When dividing our students into Group 1 and Group 2 we will need to consider busing pick up locations among other factors. Please note that for families with children at more than one school in the district, we plan to have those children present in school on the same days during the week.

Students will be scheduled in “cohorts” to the extent possible such that they are with the same group of students throughout the school day when they are in school.

Morning arrival: The school building will be open for morning arrival starting at 7:15 a.m. All students will report directly to their first class of the day upon arrival. Teachers will report at 7:10 a.m. and supervise students in their classroom through the arrival time until the first class of the day starts at 7:35 a.m.

Please note that students will not be assigned lockers, which under normal circumstances tend to be gathering places for groups of students at certain times of the day. Instead of lockers, students will be allowed to carry back packs throughout the school day. Attention will be given by staff to using online/digital materials as much as possible to limit the physical items carried by students during the school day.

Rotation for “Hybrid” Schedule

	Monday A-day	Tuesday A-day	Wednesday A-day	Thursday B-day	Friday B-day
Week 1	<u>Group 1</u> <i>In School</i> Per. 1, 2, 3, 4	<u>Group 1</u> <i>In School</i> Per. 5, 6, 7, 8	<u>Groups 1 & 2</u> Remote Instruction Per. 1-8	<u>Group 1</u> <i>At Home</i> Per. 1, 2, 3, 4	<u>Group 1</u> <i>At Home</i> Per. 5, 6, 7, 8
	<u>Group 2</u> <i>At Home</i> Per. 1, 2, 3, 4	<u>Group 2</u> <i>At Home</i> Per. 5, 6, 7, 8		<u>Group 2</u> <i>In School</i> Per. 1, 2, 3, 4	<u>Group 2</u> <i>In School</i> Per. 5, 6, 7, 8
Week 2	Monday B-day	Tuesday B-day	Wednesday B-day	Thursday A-day	Friday A-day
	<u>Group 1</u> <i>In School</i> Per. 1, 2, 3, 4	<u>Group 1</u> <i>In School</i> Per. 5, 6, 7, 8	<u>Groups 1 & 2</u> Remote Instruction Per. 1-8	<u>Group 1</u> <i>At Home</i> Per. 1, 2, 3, 4	<u>Group 1</u> <i>At Home</i> Per. 5, 6, 7, 8
<u>Group 2</u> <i>At Home</i> Per. 1, 2, 3, 4	<u>Group 2</u> <i>At Home</i> Per. 5, 6, 7, 8	<u>Group 2</u> <i>In School</i> Per. 1, 2, 3, 4		<u>Group 2</u> <i>In School</i> Per. 5, 6, 7, 8	

Daily Period Schedules

<u>Daily Block Schedule</u> Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri		<u>Shortened Period Schedule</u> Wednesday	
Student Arrival (7:15 – 7:30)			
Block 1 (per. 1 or 5)	7:35 – 8:41	Period 1	7:35 – 8:06
		Period 2	8:10 – 8:41
Block 2 (per. 2 or 6)	8:45 – 9:51	Period 3	8:45 – 9:16
		Period 4	9:20 – 9:51
Block 3 (per. 3 or 7)	9:55 – 11:01	Period 5	9:55 – 10:26
		Period 6	10:30 – 11:01
Lunch/Advisement	11:05 – 12:05	Lunch/Advisement	11:05 – 12:05
Block 4 (per. 4 or 8)	12:09 – 1:15	Period 7	12:09 – 12:40
		Period 8	12:44 – 1:15
Teacher Prep		1:15 – 2:00	
Staff Meetings & Remote Interventions		2:00 – 2:45	

Remote Learning Option

Parents can choose full time remote learning (five days per week) for their child instead of the Hybrid Schedule. Remote students will each receive a school laptop and a schedule of daily classes and will be expected to login on their laptop daily and "attend" all their classes virtually. Attendance is mandatory just as if the student were in the school building. Attendance will be taken each period by the teacher.

A web cam will be set up in each classroom so that students at home will have a live view of their teacher and will be able to hear the classroom and the teacher's instruction. Teachers will have time in the afternoons from 2:00-2:45 p.m. to meet virtually with individual students or small groups of students to provide extra help as needed. Technology support will be provided as needed for any problems the student is having with their laptop. Parents and/or students can email the MS Help Desk at MSHelpDesk@waterloocsd.org and someone will assist the student. In addition, an Online Learning Handbook will be provided to all students to help them navigate remote learning.

Hotspots will be provided for any family that does not have internet access. If verified by the district that the hotspot does not work and there is no internet connectivity in the area where the student lives, paper copies will be provided, and teachers will call students daily to check in.

Health and Safety

Masks (Face Coverings):

All staff and students are required to wear a mask (covering their mouth and nose) at all times while in the school building or on a bus. The only exceptions are as follows:

- When eating or drinking
- When alone in their classroom or workspace (staff only)
- When taking supervised mask breaks

Mask breaks will be provided as needed throughout the school day, but at least once in the morning and once in the afternoon. For mask breaks, students will be escorted in small groups to an outdoor location (or to a large, open indoor location depending on the weather).

Health Checks:

Parents/Guardians will be required to take each child's temperature and do a brief health check each morning before sending them to school. As part of the health check, parents/guardians will be required to complete a brief online form that will be provided to families in the most convenient way possible. If families cannot screen student(s), they should notify the school, and their student(s) will be screened at school before starting school each day. Students who cannot be screened at home must be transported to school by the

parent/guardian and not on the school bus. Those students will be screened by the school nurse as soon as possible and in a confidential manner.

Parents/guardians and staff members will be provided resources to educate them regarding the careful observation of symptoms of COVID-19 and health screening that must be conducted each morning before coming to school. Parents/guardians and school staff will be instructed that any student or staff member with a fever of 100°F or greater and/or symptoms of possible COVID-19 virus infection should not be present in school. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) keep an up to date list of symptoms of Coronavirus on its website. This list is not all inclusive as some individuals may display other symptoms or may be asymptomatic.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Stay Home When You Are Sick. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/business/stay-home->

As of 7/13/2020, the following are listed as the most common symptoms of COVID-19: If your children exhibit any of these symptoms, parents may want to contact their health care provider.

- Fever or chills (temp 100 or greater)
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- All staff will be trained to observe students and other staff members for signs of any type of illness such as the following symptoms and will alert the school nurse if observed.
 - Flushed cheeks
 - Rapid or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity)
 - Fatigue, and/or irritability
 - Frequent use of the bathroom
 - Daily screenings are required for all staff and students.
 - Staff must complete and submit an online health screening form every day before reporting to school.
 - School visitors, including contractors, vendors, and general visitors, will be screened using pre-approved questions that follow guidance from the CDC and Department of Health.

- The school district will provide occasional reminders to all staff, parents/guardians, and students to be conducting daily health screenings before entering school.
- Screenings at school for symptom-free students:
 - An additional staff member will be assigned to the Health office to supervise students as they wait for their screening. This individual will also be trained to administer screenings while wearing PPE. This individual will also assist non-screening student issues that arise but do not require a school nurse.
 - Students and staff will maintain social distancing practices as well as wearing PPE throughout the screening process.
 - Students receiving screenings at school will be scheduled to enter the school Health Office before or after general student arrival to minimize contact before the screening.
 - PPE for school nurses includes surgical mask, face shield, disposable gloves.
 - The nurse must wash hands, before and after screening a student, for 20 seconds with soap and water, or if not available, use a 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
 - If screening multiple students, the nurse will put on a new pair of gloves as well as a new probe on the thermometer.
 - Temperature checks, as well as visual inspection for possible COVID-19 symptoms, will be performed by trained staff.

Healthy Hygiene Practices:

- The Middle School will post signs throughout the facility that educate and remind all present to practice healthy hygiene. Examples include:
 - Stay home if they feel sick
 - Cover their nose and mouth with an acceptable face covering and social distance wherever possible.
 - Properly store, clean, and when necessary discard of PPE.
 - Report symptoms or exposure to COVID-19
 - Follow hand hygiene and cleaning and disinfection guidelines
 - Follow respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.
 - WCSD is obtaining signage provided for free by the CDC to post throughout facilities.
- The Middle School will post signs in the following areas:
 - Entrances
 - Restrooms
 - Cafeteria or other dining areas
 - Classrooms
 - Administrative offices
 - Auditorium
 - Gymnasium

- Custodial and cleaner areas
- Hand Hygiene:
 - Washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is preferable.
 - Using a 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer if not able to wash hands.
 - If hands are noticeably soiled, hand sanitizer is not effective, and individuals should be directed to wash with soap and water.
 - Hand sanitizer will be provided in common areas where handwashing is not convenient or accessible.
 - Students will be encouraged to practice good hand hygiene regularly.
 - Promotion of proper handwashing before meals, after physical education, before and after removing PPE, and other times as appropriate.
- Respiratory Hygiene:
 - Students and staff must cover their mouths or noses with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and dispose of the tissue appropriately.
 - If no tissue is available, using the inside of the elbow or shirtsleeve is appropriate.
 - Always perform hand hygiene after coughing, sneezing, and handling tissues or other soiled material.
 - The Middle School will provide new PPE (i.e., disposable masks) if a student's PPE becomes soiled during the school day.

Social Distancing:

- Middle School students and staff will maintain six feet of distance where possible, twelve feet distance if singing, projecting voice, playing a woodwind instrument, or while in a physically demanding activity.
- Staggered arrival and dismissal times, as well as ingress and egress, may be used to avoid congestion. Multiple entrances and exits may be used for student arrival and dismissal.
- Student movement will be reduced throughout the day by implementing a block schedule to reduce hallway transitions from 8 to 4 periods. Students will remain in their advisement classroom for lunch, and lunchtimes will be staggered so students can social distance to and from lunch pick up.
- Desks will be disinfected between classes before students arrive to a new class.
- Limit the use of shared supplies. (WCSD has ordered school supplies for students.)
- Use of vinyl floor tape, signs, posters, etc. to mark pedestrian traffic flow directions around the school to minimize congestion.
- Staff hall monitors will ensure social distancing is maintained, and only one student is in a bathroom at a time when possible. Hand sanitizing stations will be available outside each bathroom, and students will need to use it before entering the bathroom and after exiting.
- To prevent groups from gathering in the hallway, students will not be assigned lockers.

- Use online meetings as much as possible to limit school-wide meetings involving large groups of students, staff, or community members.
- Medically Vulnerable/High-Risk Groups
 - The following groups have been identified as having increased risk for complications from COVID-19
 - Individuals 65 years and older
 - Pregnant individuals
 - Individuals with underlying health conditions
 - Chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
 - Serious heart conditions
 - Immunocompromised
 - Severe obesity (body mass index of 30 or higher)
 - Diabetes
 - Chronic kidney disease
 - Liver disease
 - Sickle cell anemia
 - Medically complex children who have neurologic, genetic, metabolic conditions, or who have congenital heart disease are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 than other children.
 - Students with special needs or students who are medically fragile may not be able to maintain social distancing, hand/respiratory hygiene, or wear a face covering or mask. Parents/Guardians should work with their health care provider to make an informed decision on how best to meet the child's needs at school while protecting their health and safety.
 - Transitioning these students back to school requires
 - Planning and coordination with:
 - School health services personnel
 - Special education personnel
 - Pupil personnel services
 - Administration
 - Remote instruction will remain an option for students/families who may be at additional risk when attending instruction in person.
 - Staff with special health needs or who may be medically vulnerable should notify their supervisor and Superintendent Bavis to plan for additional precautions.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Cloth Face Coverings:

- The middle school will follow all the latest guidance from OSHA and the CDC for information on the most effective practices for PPE.
- The middle school will provide adequate supplies of PPE for school health professionals, including but not limited to, face masks, respirators (N95), eye protection or face shields, gloves, disposable gowns.
- Staff will be provided with acceptable face coverings if they do not wish to use their own. We will also have enough face coverings to provide them for students in the event they do not have one or forget/damage/soil their covering.

- Waterloo will provide instruction on the proper use of face coverings, hand hygiene before and after putting on/taking off face coverings, proper disposal, proper cleaning of reusable coverings, and those face coverings should never be shared.
- Students and staff may use transparent face coverings if it is necessary to see the mouth movement, i.e., for speech therapy.
 - Staff will be required to use face coverings during instruction.
 - Staff may need to wear alternative face coverings to create accessibility for students with hearing needs. Microphones and other audio equipment may also be used to increase accessibility to teacher instruction.

Management of Ill Persons:

- Students and/or staff with symptoms will be sent to the health office immediately.
- If the nurse is not available, the student/staff member must be sent home for follow up with a health care professional.
- If a student/staff member develops symptoms through the school day, they must report to the health office immediately. Based on the evaluation by the school nurse, they may be required to leave school and follow up with a health care professional.
- **Students and/or staff presenting symptoms should be symptom-free without medication for 24 hours before returning to school and are encouraged to consult with their health care professional. Depending on the situation, the school health office may require that students return to school only after consulting with their health care professional.**
- Any reports made to the school nurse by staff about suspected cases of COVID-19 must be done confidentially and in accordance with FERPA and Education Law 2-d.
- Individuals that display symptoms of COVID-19 must be kept six feet apart and isolated from the rest of the school population.
- Those waiting to be sent home must stay in isolation. Multiple people can be in the isolation area as long as social distancing can be maintained.
- All areas that the individual may have come in contact with must be cleaned and disinfected.
- Students will be escorted to their parent/guardian outside the school building by a school nurse or staff member wearing PPE.
- The parent/guardian should contact their health care provider.
- Symptomatic students must stay home unless otherwise directed by the health care professional.
 - This student may return to school if discharged by a health care professional, or if their fever is gone for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine, and they feel well for the 24 hours.
 - Students returning to school after displaying COVID-19 symptoms will be evaluated by the school Health Office before returning to classes. School nurses will also communicate with the family or the student's health care professionals prior to the student returning to review symptoms.
- If a person has been diagnosed with COVID-19, they may return to school if,
 - It has been a least ten days since the individual first had symptoms.

- It has been at least three days since they had a fever. (Without using fever-reducing medicine.)
- It has been at least three days since their symptoms improved, including cough and shortness of breath.
- For any COVID-19 positive case, return to school must be coordinated with the local health department.

Cleaning and Disinfecting:

- School-wide cleaning will include classrooms, restrooms, cafeterias, libraries, common areas, and buses.
- High touch surfaces, i.e., door handles, grab bars, railings, faucets, desks, tables, etc. will be disinfected frequently.
- Schools have identified cleaning and disinfection frequency for each facility and area type below.
 - After students enter the building, all areas must be disinfected where students have passed through.
 - Bathrooms to be cleaned at least two times per day throughout the school day. Disinfected once per day by second shift.
 - If copy room is being used please frequently disinfect unless other staff is tasked to do this after use.
 - If and where parents can enter the building, disinfect throughout the day.
 - Keep floors in the hallways cleaned daily to eliminate dust and particles. (COVID attaches to particulates)
 - Clean desks, chairs, tabletops, counters, pencil sharpeners, phones. All of these items need to be disinfected after they have been cleaned with proxi.
 - Classroom floors dust mopped daily. Wet mop classroom floors as much as possible to keep dust to a minimum.
 - Disinfect handrails twice per day, cleaned with proxi and disinfected by second shift for the next school day.
 - Masks are required to be worn while cleaning. If you need a mask break, please be respectful of others. Go outside and get fresh air if needed.
 - All facilities staff are required to wear gloves when cleaning to reduce the possibility of contracting viruses.
- Schools will maintain logs that include the date, time, and scope of cleaning and disinfection in a facility or area.
- All cleaning staff will wear appropriate PPE to protect them while they do their job.
- Students will not be present nor helping in the cleaning and disinfecting of areas.
- Building ventilation filters will be changed on a set schedule.
- Electronics will be cleaned per the manufacturer's instructions.
- School health office cleaning will occur after each use of:
 - Cots
 - Bathroom
 - Health office equipment

- Students will not be sent to or admitted into the school Health Office without a clear medical need.
- Students who go to the cafeteria to receive a school lunch will not touch any food or items in the cafeteria. Cafeteria staff will handle the food and will have cashless purchase of food. Students will eat food in the classroom, and if traveling to the cafeteria, they will be escorted by staff (as a class) while maintaining social distancing.
- Interior school doors cannot be propped open if it violates Fire Code.

Safety drills:

- Education Law 807 requires schools to conduct eight evacuation drills and four lockdown drills each school year.
- Students will be instructed and reminded that in the event of an actual emergency requiring evacuation or lockdown, the first priority must be getting to safety. In this event, social distancing is not the first priority.
- Evacuation drills will be conducted in such a way as to minimize the number of students exiting the building at one time. Staff will also ensure that students are maintaining social distancing throughout the evacuation drill.
- Lockdown drills will consist only of a review of the proper procedures, while students remain socially distanced in their classroom.
- Attention will be given to making sure there is equity with students and the types of drills, especially in a hybrid instruction model where half of the students are off-campus.
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Communication with Families

Communication between schools, families, and the community is an essential part of ensuring the health and safety of students and supporting student learning and growth.

Waterloo Middle School will continue communicating regularly with families using email, automated phone calls, and occasional surveys as needed to gather information and input from our families. In addition, our teachers will update school tool with grades at least once per week so families can monitor academic progress.

If at any point in time we need to switch to full-time remote instruction (school closure) middle school staff will continue to communicate with families in a way that provides enough information without overburdening families.

As usual, families are encouraged to contact the school at any point if needed. Contact information for all staff can be found on our school website at www.waterloocsd.org. The “Staff Directory” is in the “District” drop down menu on the main District page and in the “Our School” drop down menu on the Middle School page. Parents/guardians are encouraged to

contact their child's teacher(s) for anything related to specific classes. Our school counselors are also available to assist families.

Waterloo Middle School phone number: (315) 539-1540

Principal's email address: vince.vitale@waterloocsd.org

Social and Emotional Well-Being

Our primary focus on the first day of school will be supporting the social and emotional well-being of our students. Students will begin their first day with their small group advisements. Advisement has been part of our normal daily schedule for many years and serves as a home-base for students, becoming their "school family" as they build trusting relationships with their peers and their advisement teacher. Advisement is the heart of our Pride program which supports students as they practice being Respectful, Responsible, Engaged and Safe.

- On the first day of school, advisement teachers will facilitate a variety of activities to:
- Welcome students back to school
- Establish positive relationships among students
- Give students an opportunity to express themselves and share their thoughts and feelings as they return to school
- Reinforce school expectations related to health and safety (social distancing, masks, procedures for bathroom use, meals, hallway transitions, etc.)
- Play some fun games

After the first day of school, we will continue to monitor and support our student's social and emotional well-being throughout the school year.

If at any point in time, we need to switch to full-time remote learning (school closure) we will continue to monitor and support our student's social and emotional well-being through a variety of means.

Teaching and Learning

In accordance with the New York State guidelines for reopening schools, Waterloo Middle School will continue to provide equitable instruction for all students and daily interaction between teachers and students.

Based on feedback from students, parents and staff, on the days of the week that students are learning from home, they will still follow their school schedule, attending their classes virtually using their school laptop, and in that way participate in “synchronous” instruction. Attendance both in school and while learning from home will be mandatory for all classes.

Schoology will be used for all classes to allow teachers, students and parents a single point of access for course information and instructional materials. Microsoft Office will be used, including the “Teams” virtual meeting platform to allow for live remote instruction.

Shortly after returning to school, all students will complete benchmark assessments to help teachers identify student strengths along with any learning gaps that will need to be addressed. Extra support will be provided to students as needed to help them overcome any learning gaps and learn new grade-level material.

Teachers will provide students with regular feedback on their assignments and on their progress toward learning targets. Assignments and test/quizzes will be graded on a 100-point scale consistent with our practice as a school before the COVID pandemic. Our focus as a school will be on all students working toward mastery of grade-level standards.

Due to the social distancing requirements for Chorus and Band (singing or playing a woodwind instrument requires 12 feet of separation), rehearsals for these performance groups will take place in the auditorium where there is more space. Physical Education classes have the same social distancing requirements (12 feet) and will be held outside as often as possible or in the gym as needed.

Students will not be sharing school supplies (including Art supplies for those students in an Art class). Waterloo Middle School will provide each student with all the school supplies they need for the school year.

Students should be encouraged to keep any large textbooks at home so they do not have to carry them back and forth to and from school. Most textbooks in use at the middle school have online versions that can be accessed at school or as needed.

Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism

Students are expected to attend school every day when school is in session, whether in-person or remotely using their school laptop. Attendance will be taken daily for both in-person and remote learning, and parents will be notified if students fail to attend.

In situations where a student is chronically absent, school staff will partner with families and other support personnel as needed to address the situation and help the student engage more productively. The New York State threshold for being considered chronically absent is 10% of the number of days that school has been in session up to that point in time.

Transportation

- School buses will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with state guidelines.
- Students are expected to maintain social distance at the bus stop before pick up.
- All students who ride the bus will always be expected to wear a mask while on the bus.
- All students will be socially distanced while riding the bus.

Arrival

When the bus arrives at school, students will be let off the bus in an orderly manner so as to maintain social distance in the aisle and as they exit the bus.

When buses arrive at the same time in the morning, the drivers will coordinate with each other so that all of the students on one bus are allowed to exit the bus and move toward the main entrance before students from the other bus are allowed to exit their bus.

When walking from the bus and into the school, all students will be expected to maintain social distance at all times. Staff will be on hand to assist with this process.

Students will report directly to their first period class upon arriving to school.

Dismissal

Students who ride the bus will be dismissed at the end of the day by grade level to reduce the number of students in the hallway. Walkers will be dismissed after busers to further reduce hallway congestion.

All students are expected to maintain social distance throughout the dismissal process. Staff will be on hand to assist with this process.

Student Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast and lunch will be served each day. To ensure social distancing, we are using a cashless system this year. All meals will be “grab and go” take out style. All condiments and silverware will be wrapped. Students who wish to get breakfast in the morning will pick it up and report directly to their first period class.

For lunch, students will be escorted in small groups (advisements) to the serving area. This process will be staggered by grade level, with the advisement groups taking turns getting their lunches to maintain social distancing. 6-foot markings will be on floors to guide students through the serving area. All items will be served by staff only. Students will then return to their small group advisement classroom to eat their lunch.

Students who bring a lunch to school will walk with their advisement to the serving line (as described above) to ensure supervision and to give them an opportunity for physical movement.

Students will be instructed to wash/sanitize hands before and after meal service. Hand washing signs and videos will help promote this activity. Sharing of food will be prohibited.

There will be no seating for breakfast or lunch in the cafeteria.

Extracurricular Activities and Athletics

Waterloo Middle School will restrict and/or limit the use of school facilities to district or school sponsored extracurricular activities and groups. Extracurricular activities that can occur in a safe and healthy way may be considered. The use of technology and online resources will be considered a priority for extracurricular groups so that they have the capacity to meet virtually.

All extracurricular activities that use school facilities will be required to follow state and local health and safety protocols and must comply with applicable social distancing requirements and hygiene protocols.

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) "Interim Guidance For In-Person Instruction At Pre-K To Grade 12 Schools During The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency" (July 13, 2020) states:

"Extracurriculars: Policies regarding extracurricular programs and which activities will be allowed, considering social distancing PPE usage, and cleaning and disinfection, as well as risk of COVID-19 transmission (e.g. interscholastic sports, assemblies and other gatherings) Policies should consider how to maintain cohorts if applicable or members of the same household. Responsible Parties should refer to DOH's "Interim Guidance for Sports and Recreation During the COVID 19 Public Health Emergency" to assist in development of these policies however, interscholastic sports are not permitted at the time of publication of this guidance, and additional information on athletic activities is forthcoming."

According to the NYSDOH (July 13, 2020), "interscholastic sports are not permitted....additional information on athletic activities is forthcoming." The NYSPHSAA will attempt to preserve all athletic seasons for the 562,000 student-athletes who annually participate in interscholastic athletics during the 2020-2021 school year.

Pending forthcoming guidance from the NYSDOH, the NYSPHSAA will provide member schools with a list of sports to be played at an appropriate time during the 2020-2021 school year taking into consideration sport risk assessment, social distancing protocols as well as CDC and NYSDOH guidance.