

# West Central School Corporation

117 E. Montgomery Street  
P.O. Box 578  
Francesville, IN 47946

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“Encourage Every Student Every Day” \*Engage \*Empower \*Educate

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Phone 219-567-9161  
Fax 219-567-9761

September 7, 2018

Dear WCSC Parents and Students:

The West Central School Corporation will be utilizing eLearning days for the 2018-19 school year. The eLearning days use technology to create a blended online learning experience for students. This blended online learning experience allows for exciting learning opportunities for WCSC students while providing time flexibility. This is one more way we are living up to our mission statement to Encourage Every Student, Every Day - Engage, Empower, Educate.

To make eLearning days a success, West Central students will have a planned eLearning day on Wednesday, September 26, 2018. Teachers will prepare students for eLearning prior to September 26 and will be available to answer questions and provide assistance as they would be on a real eLearning day. Additionally, WCSC staff will be involved in professional development activities at school that day to improve overall instruction, which may result in a delayed response from your child's teacher.

In the event of inclement weather in the future, West Central will utilize eLearning during the closed school day. West Central may also use our built-in days if necessary to make up for missed school days.

Attached is an information sheet concerning eLearning at West Central School Corporation.

More specific information for each grade level or class will be provided by each teacher.

We appreciate your assistance!

Sincerely,

*Don Street*

*Dan Zylstra*

*Patrick Culp*

Don Street  
Superintendent

Dan Zylstra  
Elementary Principal

Patrick Culp  
Middle-Senior High Principal

## **eLearning Days**

### **What is eLearning?**

eLearning is the use of technology to enable people to learn anytime and anywhere. West Central School Corporation eLearning days will offer a blended learning environment for students. Teachers will create standards-based lessons with resources, and the assignments will be available through a learning management system (LMS).

Assignments for primary students will be in the form of a packet and/or the internet. Their activities/projects will reflect previous lessons and will provide an opportunity to apply what they have learned.

### **What is an LMS?**

A learning management system (LMS) is used to organize a class. If you communicate with college students, you may have heard them talk about Canvas, Blackboard, or OnCourse. WCSC teachers are using Google Classroom as their LMS. All WCSC students can log into Google Classroom using their student-issued Google Account. Once logged in, all relevant information should be easily accessible.

### **What will eLearning look like for students?**

There will not be a rigid schedule for students to follow, but they will be expected to complete required lessons by the next school day.

Teachers will be available online for questions during the day (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM). If a teacher does not answer the phone, leave a message. If they do not respond to an email immediately, they are likely helping another student. They will get back to you.

### **Why have eLearning days?**

Students will have the opportunity to do relevant, practical work as make-up days prior to Indiana State testing in the spring. The school work will relate to the material being covered in class.

Having the technical and organizational skills necessary to do independent, online learning is important for our students both now and for the future.

According to a study completed in 2017, 33 percent of college students take at least one online course. Even face-to-face courses in college require work to be submitted electronically.

Companies and corporations use eLearning for training purposes, and most companies require online applications for prospective employees. For most organizations, paper is more and more the way of the past.

### **What if we do not have Internet access at our home?**

While assignments may require Internet (not all will), there are several options for families without Internet access:

For some assignments, the required files can be downloaded in advance while at school.

For some assignments, the student may be able to do the actual thinking/writing process while at home and then quickly upload it when they return to school. (For example, if the assignment is to write a response to a blog, the student could complete it in a word processor while at home.)

Parents may consider other options such as taking their child to a family member's or a friend's residence that has Internet access or to one of the many places with free public access.

Note: Students will not be penalized if they cannot get Internet service, but they will be responsible for either doing alternative assignments or completing the work requiring the Internet while at school.

Internet access is always available at West Central School Corporation. If you only need brief access (i.e. for a quick file download that a student forgot to do while at school), families may simply pull into the school parking lot 24/7.

### **What if the student's electronic device is not working?**

From experience, this is a rare occurrence. However, if it happens, there are a couple different options:

Because the learning management system is web-based, students may use any other device to upload their work such as that of a friend or family member.

If the student cannot find a way to complete their assignments, the assignments will be accepted as "late." When the student returns to school, he/she will need to take his/her device to the tech department to be repaired if the device is school issued.

### **How will attendance be taken?**

Students who make a good faith effort to complete the assigned work will be marked as attending. If a student does not make a good faith effort on the assigned work, the student may be marked as absent.

### **Can a student work, go on a college visit, compete in athletics, or something else that must be done?**

Students can organize his/her day in a manner that suits each individual. They will be required to complete all work before the class's next meeting.