

Administration

Dr. Sara Lewis-Stankus
Superintendent
Dr. Debra Harrison
Assistant Superintendent



Board of Education

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Dear Families,

What a year 2020 has been! In a matter of weeks, the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered communities; residents stayed home, and everyone began the anxious wait for when things would return to near normal. Upshur County school personnel stayed on the job to prepare and deliver meals throughout Upshur County. Teachers continued their work with students online. Graduation was modified.

It was tough, and we learned alongside all of you.

We have never lost sight of the fact that our children NEED to be in school. However, we understand that we must do this with the utmost safety in mind. Upshur County Schools is committed to both of those charges.

The framework that follows presents guidelines that our schools will follow as we reenter on September 8. It is intentionally general because we understand the coronavirus pandemic is an ever-changing situation. Our preferred option is a return to school, five days a week, with established safety measures in place. We will reconfigure schools to implement physical distancing and strongly encourage personal hygiene to slow disease spread. We will urge the use of face coverings and other personal protective equipment. These measures, practiced by everyone, provide the best chance of keeping exposure to the virus to a minimum.

While a preferred option is a five-day week, we understand that we may have to alter those plans. We will remain flexible, and we will work with local health authorities as well as state health and education officials to keep as many children in school as much as possible. We may temporarily close individual schools, or schedules may be altered. We may use a combination of in-person and online learning. In any event, we will strive to give you, our families, timely information so you can plan appropriately. If your student needs to stay home, we have hired a remote learning teacher to meet their needs.

Finally, we know there is no replacement for what our students experience in schools. Yet, we recognize that we may be required to return to a fully remote mode of instruction. We are ready for that, and we have listened to your concerns about improving our instruction. Our teachers are already working on syllabi and curriculum maps, so parents and students know what to expect. We are working out the details to ensure your children have more interaction with teachers. Our remote learning teacher is ready to support student learning at home. If needed, we will hire or train more teachers.

Until we are able to return to a more traditional, long-term school schedule – our new normal – this framework will allow us to educate our children as safely as possible. We want our teachers and students back in school, in the classroom, as soon as possible!

Thank you, and we look forward to serving you in the fall.

Dr. Sara Lewis-Stankus

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sara Lewis Stankus". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Superintendent