



Back to School FAQ's

School starts on **Wednesday, August 18th**. We hope this helps you have a better understanding of student policies and procedures. If you have any questions do not hesitate to call the office at 806-637-4910.

1. Where and when do I drop my students off at school? Elementary students will be dropped off at the front of the school building. Secondary students and bus riders will enter through the Commons' Doors in the back of the building. Doors will open at 7:30 AM. Breakfast will be from 7:30 to 7:55 AM each morning. The first bell will ring at 7:55 AM and the tardy bell will ring at 8:00 AM. Please be on time!

2. Where do students go when they arrive at school? Upon entering the building, elementary students will be directed to the cafeteria for breakfast or their classroom. JH & HS students may eat breakfast and will wait in the commons area until 7:55 AM. The tardy bell for all students will be 8:00 AM. On the first day of school there will be a Welcome Assembly in the auditorium for all students at 8:15.

3. When does the school day end and how do we need to pick up our students? The dismissal bell will ring at 3:45 pm. Buses will leave by 3:50 pm each day. Elementary students will be picked up in the front of the building in the pick-up line. Pre-K and K students will begin dismissal at 3:35 with the rest of elementary to follow. Secondary students will be picked up / Leave on their own at 3:45pm. We ask that parents stay in vehicles to the greatest extent possible when picking up students. Parents may park across the street by the church or on the southwest corner of the building if you need to get out of your car.

4. JH Athletics will continue to be 1st period. Before school practices will occur throughout the year. A grab and go breakfast option will be available for JH students between 1st and 2nd period. More instructions will be coming from coaches with specific practice schedules.

5. Do students have an Open Campus? Wellman-Union ISD will be a closed campus. This means no student may leave during the school day without permission from a campus administrator unless parents or legal guardians sign them out. Parents may bring food to their own child (not friends), by dropping food off in the front office. If eating with your child, please check in the front office and sit at the back tables along the windows of the gym in the Commons.

6. What is the policy on parents or guests coming to school during the school day? We love for parents and guests to come on campus to visit with staff or their children. However, for safety precautions, all guests **MUST** sign in at the office when they come to school to pick up a child or simply to visit with a teacher or other school personnel during normal school hours. It is not appropriate for a guest to enter the building and walk hallways or go to a classroom without

first signing in at the office. ** This policy is subject to change depending on our current health and safety plan.

7. How do I keep a check on my student's grades during the school year? Wellman-Union ISD offers a service to parents called "Parent Portal". Parent Portal is aptly named in that it provides parents a window through which they can view the attendance and grades recorded by teachers for their child. Any parent who has access to the internet will be able to take advantage of this service. Parent Portal is set up so that by using a username and password the parent can access a teacher's grade book and see the grades recorded for their child. Parental Portal is secure, and no other parent or individual will be able to access your child's information if you do not allow anyone else to have your username and password. If you are interested, you can obtain an authorization from the office at 806-637-4910. If you already have an account, you do not need to create a new one. Those that already have an account will use the same username and password as last year. Parents are encouraged to email/contact the teacher at any time to schedule a parent/teacher conference.

8. Dress Code The district's dress code teaches grooming and hygiene, prevents disruption, minimizes safety hazards, and maintains a positive learning climate. Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards, if they comply with the following:

- Sunglasses and bandannas are not to be worn at school. Hats and caps may be worn at extracurricular athletic activities outside the school day but not during the school day.
- Appropriate footwear shall be worn at all times, no house shoes.
- Shirts and blouses will meet the following guidelines:
 - The midriff must not be exposed when the student goes through any normal activities of the school day (bending, stretching, reaching, etc.) Necklines may be no lower than a horizontal line extending from armpit to armpit. No spaghetti straps will be worn. Tank tops will be 2 inches wide on the shoulder straps. Mesh shirts, shirts with holes, or large armholes are not permitted.
 - The district prohibits pictures or writings on clothing that are lewd, offensive, vulgar, or obscene, gang-related, or that advertises or depicts tobacco products, alcohol, drugs, or any other substance prohibited by state or local policy.
 - Pants are to be worn at the natural waistline. Sagging pants are not permitted. No oversized pants include the waist, legs, and length. Pajama type bottoms are not to be worn as pants. Pants or shorts with frayed or threadbare areas above finger-tip length are prohibited. Any undergarment may not be visible. Form-fitting sweats, tights, yoga pants, or stretch pants may be worn as long as the top covers the rear-end.
 - Tattoos are prohibited. Students possessing tattoos will be required to keep the tattoos covered at all times during the school day and all school functions.
 - Boys shall not wear earrings. All other types of body piercing are prohibited for students.
 - Boys will wear their hair evenly cut to the top of the collar, out of eyes, and well-groomed with no designs. Extreme haircuts, tails, or anything designed to attract undue attention are not

acceptable. Hair must be no longer than 4 inches in length. Extreme hairstyles, such as mohawks, cornrows, ponytails, and rat tails for boys, are not permitted.

- All students' hair will be of natural color.
- A beard or mustache is not allowed.
- Students are permitted to wear walking shorts and dresses under the following guidelines:
 - Shorts, skirts, or dresses shall be no shorter than the length of the middle finger of the hand when the arms are allowed to hang naturally at the student's sides, with the shoulders relaxed.
 - No biker, boxer, spandex, or cutoffs will be allowed. All shorts must be hemmed.
- Blankets and house shoes/slippers are not to be worn.
- Students may not wear clothing promoting other schools, not including postsecondary schools.

These dress rules are during school hours and during any school sponsored activities. Dress code for uniforms and practice gear for extracurricular competition and practices shall be determined by the coaches and sponsors under the guidance of the athletic director and campus principal. All decisions concerning the dress code are left up to the discretion of the principal. If the problem cannot be corrected at school, the principal will work with the student and parent to obtain an acceptable change of clothing for the student in a way that minimizes loss of instructional time. Repeated or severe offenses may result in more serious disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

9. What do I do if my child misses a day of school? Attendance is critical to school success. In those rare circumstances when a student must be absent from school, the student – upon returning to school – must bring a note signed by the parent that describes the reason for the absence; a note signed by the student, even with the parent's permission, will not be accepted. The notes are due no later than 3 days after the student returns to school. Students who do not have a note from home or a parent phone call will be marked UNEXCUSED. There are exemptions to being counted absent. They are listed below.

Exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements

State law allows exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements for several types of absences if the student makes up all work. These include the following activities and events:

- Religious holy days
- Required court appearances
- Activities related to obtaining United States citizenship
- Service as an election clerk
- Absences resulting from a serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment that makes a student's attendance infeasible, with certification by a physician
- Documented health-care appointments if the student is able to attend part of the school day. A note from the health-care provider must be submitted upon the student's return to campus on the same day.
- Junior or senior student's absence related to visiting a college or university (up to two days per school year) will be considered an exemption, provided the student receives approval from the

campus principal, follows the campus procedures to verify such a visit, and makes up any work missed

- Any student who leaves school to obtain a driver's permit or driver's license. A note or verification from the driver's license office must be submitted upon the student's arrival back at school.

10. What is the cell phone policy/apple watches/air pods?

Please communicate with your student on the appropriate use of cell phones during the school day. Elementary students will not be allowed to have cell phones during the school day.

Secondary students may have them out during the lunch period only but cannot use them any other time unless permission has been granted by school personnel. Apple watches will also be included in this rule since the apple watch can be used in a very similar manner to a Phone.

Students will not be permitted to use Air pods/headphones during instruction or passing periods unless granted permission for a school/instructional activity. They must be put up in a bag. Failure to follow these standards will result in disciplinary action.

We must remember that with freedom comes responsibility. Inappropriate use of cell phones and other forms of technology will not be tolerated, and our policy will be strictly enforced.