



## **Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies Instructional Plan 2020-21**

### **Introductory note:**

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies (hereafter referred to as MLWGS) is a regional Academic Year Governor's School program serving Goochland County, King and Queen County, Hanover County, Powhatan County, New Kent County, Charles City County, City of Richmond, City of Hopewell, Henrico County, City of Petersburg, Chesterfield County, and Prince George County Public Schools. Due to the program's regional nature, the governance of the program falls under the authority of the Regional School Board (comprised of one member from each participating district School Board) with input from the Steering Committee of Superintendents. As an independent Regional Public School, MLWGS is providing this stand-alone Instructional Plan.

### **1) Operational Infrastructure to Support Learning**

#### **a) Calendar and Start of School Year**

- i) MLWGS will begin instruction on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, following a virtual schedule.
- ii) Many of our participating districts are also opening with a virtual schedule and will be unable to provide transportation for our students in an equitable fashion. As our participating districts begin to reopen in-person, we will re-evaluate our ability to provide in-person instruction for our students.
- iii) No earlier than October 16<sup>th</sup>, we will decide if we can move to in-person instruction for the second marking period. MLWGS will commence on-campus attendance if schools have exited Phase III.
- iv) MLWGS will follow the school calendar attached as Appendix 1.

#### **b) School schedules**

- i) All instruction (virtual and potentially hybrid) will proceed following a daily bell schedule and employing synchronous instruction. Daily bell schedules are attached in Appendix 2.
- ii) MLWGS students take all of their coursework with us.
- iii) While conducting 100% Virtual Instruction (opening of school and any subsequent closures), students will attend their scheduled classes in a synchronous fashion on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday using Zoom. Friday will be reserved as an asynchronous learning day to be used for completing assignments and assessments.

- iv) In the event of school reopening for in-person instruction, students with a documented medical or emotional need will have the option of attending 100% virtually. These students will receive the same instruction, in real-time, as the students sitting in the classroom.
- c) Transportation
  - i) Upon reopening for in-person instruction, transportation will be provided by our participating school districts.
  - ii) Each district has committed to providing bus transportation for their students while their district is running in-person classes.
  - iii) Students/families have the option of providing their own transportation to MLWGS.
- d) Technology
  - i) MLWGS has surveyed our students and families to determine technological needs, and the program will provide assistance as needed.
  - ii) Students will have the option of checking out a laptop from MLWGS and will have access to preloaded software, email, Office365, and other support tools.
  - iii) Courses will be hosted online through our existing LMS (Schoology). Zoom Pro will be used to conduct real-time instruction.
- e) Systems and processes
  - i) MLWGS will follow and maintain the majority of our existing school procedures, except where specific adjustments are needed due to COVID-19.
  - ii) Course expectations, grading scale, assignments, and other student expectations will mirror normal operations.
  - iii) As lab activities are a central feature to many of the science classes at MLWGS. Labs will be conducted in a virtual environment until such a time when students may safely return to campus.
- f) Communication
  - i) Communication is particularly important in the context of our regional program and our diverse range of stakeholders.
  - ii) Communication will be maintained with each of our participating school districts through email, phone calls, and virtual meetings with our district liaisons, Superintendents, and Regional Board members.
  - iii) Communication with parents/families will be maintained through our Swift Reach K-12 system, virtual community meetings, email, and traditional mailing.
  - iv) Communication with students will be maintained through Schoology and student emails, virtual community meetings, and posts to the school website.

## 2) **New Instruction for All Students**

- a) Note on Population: MLWGS has a rather narrow population when compared to a full school district, serving only 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students who have been determined as exceptional academically by the competitive application process. MLWGS values and attends to students' individual needs, but the uniform nature of the curriculum offerings and instructional programs enables a streamlined approach in this area.
- b) New Instruction:
  - i) All students have been scheduled in the appropriate new courses for this year.
  - ii) Each course will feature new instruction following the same core competencies that traditionally guide instruction at MLWGS.

- iii) Pacing and instructional expectations will mirror a typical school year and we anticipate minimal interruptions to instructional progress based on the school's success in the spring of 2020.
- c) Equitable support:
  - i) As stated, the student body has a fairly uniform background and instructional ability, but MLWGS will appropriately meet accommodations provided in IEP and 504 plans.
  - ii) A deep level of technological support will mitigate impact of economic disadvantage.
  - iii) Teachers and counselors will be available during school hours to support students' needs.
- d) Professional development
  - i) The administration has worked with faculty leadership to develop a framework of priorities and best practices for virtual and potential hybrid instruction, lab practices in the context of COVID-19, and modified group work/student activities.
  - ii) This work has generated a set of guidelines which will feature heavily during teacher back to school professional development.
  - iii) All returning staff have familiarity with the online course management system we have used in the past. New staff will be trained and paired with veteran teachers for support.
  - iv) Training on Schoology and Zoom is provided from the MLWGS technology integrators and will be employed with our staff.
  - v) Training regarding health risks and COVID-19 will be provided, as described in our Health Plan submission.
- e) Communication with stakeholders
  - i) Our instructional and operational plans have been shared with students and families through a series of web posts, emails, and publicly available information.
  - ii) Other communication approaches are explained in section 1) f).

### **3) Identification of Instructional Gaps and Student Needs**

- a) Review of Spring 2020 instruction:
  - i) Starting on March 16 (immediately after closure announcement), MLWGS implemented asynchronous virtual classes for all students as well as employing real-time direct instruction from faculty.
  - ii) Our teachers were able to complete the key required elements in all courses, and considerable success and progress was demonstrated by the students (measured by authentic assessment, final exams, and AP tests).
- b) Identification of Learning Needs
  - i) Due to the success of our instructional program in the spring (discussed above), we should not be faced with substantial learning gaps associated with COVID-related closures for our returning students, however, we can't say the same of the rising freshmen as they are coming to us from 12 different districts who may not have had the success that we experienced.
  - ii) Our teachers will be guided to conduct informal assessments to determine levels of loss from the prior school year.
  - iii) Students who finished the 8<sup>th</sup>-grade year with lower writing grades were provided virtual support during the summer.
- c) Supports for student success and well-being

- i) Students will have access to teacher assistance during the school day as well as through individual appointments.
- ii) The Counseling Department as School Psychologist will actively provide support to students through virtual meetings.
- iii) MLWGS will continue its student mindfulness program and related efforts such as group counseling, learning strategy lessons, individual college counseling sessions.
- d) Revisions to curriculum, pacing, and instructional delivery
  - i) The modified format of classes should be expected to slow down instruction to some degree. Adjustments will be made to the depth of instruction rather than pacing, as MLWGS courses traditionally cover content to a greater depth than required by SOL, AP, or Dual Enrollment standards.
  - ii) The intention is for instructional delivery to adhere as closely as possible to our traditionally high expectations for instruction. This will be achieved by our use of synchronous instruction via live stream of the in-class lesson.

#### **4) Remote Learning**

- a) Continuity of instruction
  - i) As explained in the previous sections, real-time virtual instruction will be part of our planned instructional delivery, even while in phase 3.
  - ii) If circumstances allow for a transition to fully/hybrid in-person instruction, MLWGS will revert to the previously established schedule and maintain a normal pace of new instruction.

*Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 follow on subsequent pages.*

# APPENDIX 1: SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

## Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Academic Calendar 2020-2021

July 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2020 (T= 3)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2020 (S=17, T=20.5)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

- 19. First Day Dept. Heads
- 25. Fresh Orientation, Fees, & Book Pick-up
- 26. New Teacher Academy
- 27. Teachers Return

- 1 & 2. Soph., Juniors, & Seniors Fees & Book Pick-up
- 8. First Day of School
- 24. Back to School Night

October 2020 (S=22, T=22)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2020 (S=17, T=18.5)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2020 (S= 14, T=14)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- 14. PSAT (TBA)

- 9-11. Information Forums 6:30-9 PM

- 18. Winter Concert

January 2021 (S= 18, T=19)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2021 (S=19, T=20.5)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2021 (S=23, T=23)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- 30. New Student Assessment (SAM-1 PM)

- 6. New Student Assessment (SAM-1PM)
- 11. Student Intent to Return Forms due
- 13. Snow Date for New Student Assessment

- 15-18. School division visits

April 2021 (S=17, T=17)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2021 (S=20, T=20)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	1/8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2021 (S=13, T=15)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

- 20. New Student Registration (6-8PM)

- 3-14. AP Testing window (See web site)
- 27-28. SOL Testing (See web site); Dual Enrollment & Senior exams

- 1-4. SOL Testing (See web site); Dual Enrollment & Senior exams
- 10. Senior Showcase Day & Freshman FT
- 14-17. Exams (1,7; 2,8; 3,5; 4,6)
- 18. Make-up Exams AM; Graduation-Altria Theater PM
- 21. Last day for Teachers; 28. for Dept Heads

- Holidays (No Students or Staff)
- Teacher Work Day (No Students)
- Only 12 month employees report
- Staff Development (No Students)
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Office Hours 7:30AM-5:30PM M-R
- Virtual School Day: Synchronous
- Virtual School Day: Asynchronous Instruction

- Report Card Distribution
- Interim Report (Paperless)
- End of Marking Period

### Instructional Days/Quarter

1st 9 weeks 43 days      3rd 9 weeks 44 days  
 2nd 9 weeks 45 days      4th 9 weeks 46 days  
 S=180      T= 192.5

The Regional School Board retains the right to adjust the calendar as needed.

## APPENDIX 2: BELL SCHEDULES

### Virtual Learning Bell Schedule

Each day begins with a moment of silence, “Pledge of Allegiance,” and announcements that will be pre-recorded and posted to the class Schoology pages.

Monday and Wednesday	Tuesday and Thursday	Friday
1 <sup>st</sup> Block 8:40-9:55	2 <sup>nd</sup> Block 8:40-9:55	Asynchronous Instruction
3 <sup>rd</sup> Block 10:10-11:25	4 <sup>th</sup> Block 10:10-11:25	
Lunch 11:25 – 12:15	Lunch 11:25 – 12:15	
5 <sup>th</sup> Block 12:15 – 1:30	6 <sup>th</sup> Block 12:15 – 1:30	
7 <sup>th</sup> Block 1:45 – 3:00	8 <sup>th</sup> Block 1:45 – 3:00	

### Hybrid or In-Person Bell Schedule

Monday and Wednesday	Tuesday and Thursday	Friday
1 <sup>st</sup> Block 8:40-10:08	2 <sup>nd</sup> Block 8:40-10:08	Period 1 8:40-9:20
3 <sup>rd</sup> Block 10:13 – 11:35	4 <sup>th</sup> Block 10:13 – 11:35	Period 2 9:25-10:05
Lunch 11:35 – 12:15	Lunch 11:35 – 12:15	Period 3 10:10-10:50
5 <sup>th</sup> Block 12:20 – 1:42	6 <sup>th</sup> Block 12:20 – 1:42	Period 4 10:55-11:35
7 <sup>th</sup> Block 1:47 – 3:10	8 <sup>th</sup> Block 1:47 – 3:10	Lunch 11:35-12:15
		Period 5 12:20-1:00
		Period 6 1:05-1:45
		Period 7 1:50-2:30
		Period 8 2:35-3:15