



2021-2022 Nazareth Area School District Cyber Academy Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Elementary (K-6) Cyber Questions:

Question: How much time will students have with actual teacher contact and instruction at the elementary School? How much time will students be required to do independent asynchronous work? What supplies will parents be responsible to purchase? What supplies will the school provide?

Answer:

- In the K-6 NASD Cyber Academy, students will begin their day with a synchronous morning meeting in which the teacher reviews the skills and concepts for the day, introduces the asynchronous assignments, and answers any questions. There will also be a synchronous ELA lesson and math lesson daily and a synchronous science or social studies lesson 2-3 days per week. Approximately 1-2 hours per day will be synchronous. The remainder of the work will be completed asynchronously. Teachers will also have daily office hours to support asynchronous modules.
- The school will provide an ipad for each K-6 student and the same textbooks and workbooks that are provided to in-person students. Teachers may provide additional instructional resources at their discretion. There will be a materials pick-up, minimally at the beginning of each trimester.
- Each teacher will provide a supply list, similar to the supply lists provided for in-person students. The supply lists will be available by Monday, August 16th.

Question: Will there be opportunities for students to socialize as part of the online teacher instruction time or will it all be teacher directed with little student interaction time?

Answer:

- At the K-6 level students will have time to socialize as part of the online instruction. Teachers will begin each day with a morning meeting. The morning meeting will offer opportunities for social emotional learning. The synchronous Math, ELA, and Science/Social Studies instruction will also allow for social opportunities built into the instruction through group work, small group discussion opportunities, and whole group discussion opportunities.

Question: Will special area teachers be providing direct instruction or will the special area teacher be asynchronous?

Answer:

- At the K-6 level, special area activities will be asynchronous.

Secondary 7-12 Cyber Questions:

Question: How much time will teachers be spending instructing students for the individual high school courses? Will only certain courses be offered as part of the Cyber Academy? Or will all courses be offered in both in-person and cyber formats? Same question for the middle school.

Answer:

- Since the program is asynchronous, Middle School and High School students have the flexibility to complete assignments on their own schedule by the assigned teacher due date for the week. In addition, students may reach out to schedule live teacher support as needed. Direct instruction will be provided asynchronously through various modalities like, but not limited to, screencasts and teacher developed videos. The cyber academy will offer courses aligned to the middle school and high school course offerings for in-person students where feasible.



2021-2022 Nazareth Area School District Cyber Academy Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Question: What will the Middle School program/classes look like? Will that be in block schedules? How many students in each class? What will special area classes look like?

Answer:

- Student schedules at the Middle School will be created using asynchronous course offerings from the Colonial Virtual Program (CVP) and align to Middle School course offerings. The CVP courses are taught by highly qualified and Pennsylvania certified teachers with experience in online instruction.
- Since the program is completely asynchronous, Middle School and High School students have the flexibility to complete assignments on their own schedule by the assigned teacher due date. In addition, students may reach out to schedule live teacher support as needed.
- There are 5 students currently enrolled in NASD Cyber Academy for grade 7.
- There are 12 students currently enrolled in NASD Cyber Academy for grade 8.
- Special Area classes at the Middle School will also be offered through CVP and align to the middle school course offerings.

General K-12 Cyber Questions:

Question: How many students are enrolled in the Cyber Academy? How big will the class sizes be? Will experienced teachers be teaching in the Cyber Academy? Or will the teachers be newly hired teachers?

Answer:

- At this time 144 students are enrolled in the NASD Cyber Academy. Seventy-nine students are enrolled in the elementary level (K-6), Seventeen students are enrolled in the middle school level, and forty-eight are enrolled at the high school level.
- Currently class sizes for grades K-6 range from 10 to 15 students per grade level.
- At the K-6 level, of the four classroom teachers assigned to NASD Cyber, one is a current NASD Teacher and three are newly hired NASD teachers that will have received professional training on teaching in a virtual setting by our Director of Elementary Education.
- At the 7-8 level, if teachers were re-assigned to cover current cyber enrollment, it would result in large class sizes of over 30 students/class for in-person instruction. To avoid this issue, Middle School cyber student schedules will be developed using the Cyber Virtual Program (CVP) course catalog. This catalog was used for some high school courses in the 2020-2021 school year and will continue to be used for high school coursework in the 2021-2022 school year. The CVP courses are taught by highly qualified and Pennsylvania certified teachers with experience in online instruction.

Question: It sounds like since administration keeps saying that the Cyber Program will not be like last year's Cyber program that the program will be of lesser quality. Is this the case? Does the administration not consider the Cyber program to be a quality program?

Answer:

- The Nazareth Area School District continues to be committed to providing a quality cyber program. The difference between the 2020-2021 Blue Eagle Cyber Academy program and the 2021-2022 NASD Cyber Program is the amount of synchronous learning sessions per week. In the K-6 NASD Cyber Academy, approximately 1-2 hours per day will be synchronous. The remainder of the work will be completed asynchronously. The NASD Cyber Academy program



2021-2022 Nazareth Area School District Cyber Academy Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

for 7-12 students provides asynchronous course offerings with scheduled live synchronous teacher support as needed.

Question: How is the Cyber Academy program going to offer an education program that is better than the established Cyber Charter schools that are available to parents?

Answer:

- The NASD Cyber Academy exceeds other cyber programs in the amount of synchronous instructional time at the K-6 level where parents can expect 1-2 hours of synchronous instruction daily. Across all grade levels, our cyber students remain Nazareth Area School District students throughout the enrollment process and do not need to disenroll from the Nazareth Area School District to re-enroll in in-person instruction. Also across all grade levels, students in the NASD Cyber Academy will have access to all of the support services, and extra-curricular and co-curricular opportunities as our in-person students. Additionally, the process for re-entry (when families are ready) will be seamless as the curriculum expectations are aligned between the in-person and cyber instruction. Choosing our cyber program allows us to maintain the ongoing, trusted relationships that are critical to our educational approach.

Question: Will the teachers who are teaching in the Cyber Academy be masked when they deliver instruction online?

Answer:

- No

Question: What will be starting times and ending times for the Cyber Schools at the Elementary School, Middle School, High School?

Answer:

- At the K-6 level, synchronous lessons and office hours will occur during the normal school hours, between 8:15am and 3:30pm. Students have the flexibility to complete asynchronous assignments on their own schedule while still meeting the established due dates.
- At the 7-12 level, the program is completely asynchronous, students have the flexibility to complete assignments on their own schedule while still meeting the established assignment due dates.

Question: If my child is having difficulty will resources and teachers be available for extra help?

Answer:

- Yes. At the elementary level, teachers will have a 30-45 minute office hour each day. During this time, the teacher will be available on Zoom to answer student questions or provide help with an assignment. Teachers will also be accessible throughout the school day via e-mail and Schoology messenger. Student academic progress will be monitored to identify students who qualify for targeted intervention. Targeted interventions will be provided virtually for students who qualify.
- Yes. At the secondary level, teachers will be available to parents/students during scheduled office hours to answer questions pertaining to assignments or learning modules. In addition, the NASD Virtual Learning Coordinators will serve as a liaison between families/children and the Colonial Virtual Program by monitoring student academic progress. Students have the ability to reach out to their teachers in a variety of ways beyond scheduled office hours, including:



2021-2022 Nazareth Area School District Cyber Academy Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- Internal messaging within Schoology or Edgenuity
- Scheduling live sessions with teachers to meet virtually to review material or get extra help
- Course offerings provided through CVP include access to a Tutoring Help button where students can chat with concept coaches/Tutors right as they are working through the material during day time and evening hours including some times over the weekend.

Question: Since parents do not know what this new version of the Cyber Academy looks like, can the enrollment deadline be delayed until they have been provided with more detailed information about the program?

Answer:

- Enrollment changes may occur prior to the start of the school year until August 27, 2021 upon written request sent to the building principal. Once the school year has started, written requests for enrollment changes can be sent to the building principal for the end of a semester (HS), or the end of a trimester (MS, IS, and K-4). However, families of children struggling to meet the academic and attendance expectations of the NASD Cyber Academy or in-person instruction may be contacted by the building administration to discuss educational options that are supportive of the child's learning needs. The District will continue to work with families on an individual basis to support their unique learning needs and circumstances and make adjustments as necessary.

Question: How will the Cyber program work for students with IEPs? Will there be additional instructional time as was previously set forth in the IEP for face to face time?

Answer:

- Students with IEPs in grades K-12 will be supported by special education teachers who will be specifically assigned to support students with IEPs only.

Question: Will students be logging in at set times each day? Same times for elementary and secondary?

Answer:

- Students enrolled in grades K-6 will have designated times for synchronous instruction that will be scheduled and communicated by the cyber teacher. Asynchronous assignments can be completed on their own schedule while still meeting the established due dates.
- Coursework for students enrolled in grades 7-12 is completely asynchronous, students have the flexibility to complete assignments on their own schedule while still meeting the established assignment due dates. For CVP courses, in a typical five day school week students are required to log in 5 times on 5 separate days within the 7 days.

Other Questions:

Question: If the district changes to a masked in person mandate, can they switch their children to the Cyber Academy? If my child becomes ill or is forced to quarantine for an extended period of time can my child join the Cyber Academy class? Or will my child be able to Zoom in to possibly audit his/her regular in-person class?

Answer:

- If students are unable to attend in-person instruction due to the implementation of masking requirements in schools and/or quarantining for a week or less, teachers will provide asynchronous work and support students in their learning upon return.



2021-2022 Nazareth Area School District Cyber Academy Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- If students are unable to attend in-person instruction due to the implementation of masking requirements in schools and/or quarantining for more than a week, the district would look to implement other modes of direct instruction. The district will work directly with each individual family to meet the student's learning needs.

Question: If a student contracts COVID will the cyber student counts be counted in with the in person student count that may affect school closings? If school is closed because of COVID will the Cyber Academy also be closed that day or will the Cyber Academy classes be held without covid closing interruption?

Answer:

- At the moment the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Health do not have guidance or requirements on school closures due to COVID-19 cases. Positive COVID-19 cases for students in the NASD Cyber Academy do not count toward a 10 day rolling average of in-school cases of COVID-19.

Question: How will each school in the district implement the health and safety plan?

Answer:

- The July 27, 2021 Board Approved Health and Safety Plan will be followed with consistency among each school as monitored by the building principals and district administration.

Question: When will student handbooks for each grade/school be updated and available?

Answer:

- In keeping with past practice, student handbooks are reviewed and updated annually and will be provided to families no later than the start of school and posted on the building websites.

Question: General What will lunch, class, recess, and after school look like with masks optional?

Answer:

- During lunches in grades K-8, students will be facing one direction with 3 feet physical distancing, to the extent possible. Students may be assigned specific seats and there will be a hands-free checkout at lunch.
- During lunches in grades 9-12, students will attend one of 4 lunch periods to reduce the number of students per lunch period. In addition, outdoor seating will be provided in the courtyard in fall and spring to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria at one time.
- During recess in grades K-6, a schedule will be created by the building principals to reduce the number of students on the playground at one time
- During after-school activities, students will need to follow the guidance provided by the agencies/organizations/activities students attend (e.g. after-school childcare provider or athletic team events.)

Question: Can you give us reassurance that the mitigation procedures from last year are no longer in place? (masking throughout the day, etc.)

Answer:

- The mitigation measures in place for the 2021-2022 school year are reflective of the Board Approved Health and Safety Plan, which can be viewed on the district website.



2021-2022 Nazareth Area School District Cyber Academy Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Question: *How does the school plan to advertise vaccines? Will students be in front of a speaker who visits the school? Will it be signs posted? Will parents be given a heads up with ample time to opt their children out?*

Answer:

- Schools will not be advertising vaccines through any means, including via visitors/assemblies and/or signage advertising vaccines.

Question: *Can you confirm that if the board decides masks are required that you will allow the exemptions valid per PA state laws (religious, medical, philosophical) and work with families on a private basis to work with them and their needs?*

Answer:

- Exemptions would be determined by the governing body (School Board of Directors, CDC, or other federal or state agency) that implements the mask requirement.

Question: *Will parents be penalized for keeping kids home if they are not masking their children? This is related to a question to relax the absentee/truancy rules that have been in place in the past.*

Answer:

- At this time, for the 2021-2022 school year, if the families report the student's absences and include their reasons for the absences AND students participate in all of the work assigned by teachers, their absences will not be considered unexcused and thus truancy rules would not apply.

Question: *What are the metrics from the 2020-2021 SY WRT: # of confirmed cases traced to school spread, # of teachers by school, # of confirmed cases by school (students), etc?*

Answer:

- The chart below summarizes the number of students quarantined at least once throughout the course of the 2020-2021 school year. The quarantine data below is further categorized into:
 - Students who were quarantined and tested positive for COVID-19
 - Students who were quarantined and tested negative for COVID-19
 - Students who were quarantined and families who did not report on COVID-19 testing results
 - Blue Eagle Cyber Academy students are reported separately within the same categories
- To the best of our knowledge, the number of confirmed cases traced back to school spread was minimal to zero.
- In advance of this meeting, we were unable to summarize COVID-19 case data for our staff. This information will be forthcoming.



2021-2022 Nazareth Area School District Cyber Academy Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

2020-2021 Quarantined Students

School/Grade Level	Total Student Population As of 5/28/21	In-person students						Blue Eagle Cyber Academy students						Total Quarantined Students	
		Positive		Negative		Not reported		Positive		Negative		Not reported			
		Count	% Pop	Count	% Pop	Count	% Pop	Count	% Pop	Count	% Pop	Count	% Pop	Count	% Pop
Nazareth Area High School															
Grade 12	408	57	14.0%	62	15.2%	39	9.6%	6	1.5%	0	0.0%	4	1.0%	168	41.2%
Grade 11	382	36	9.4%	51	13.4%	61	16.0%	4	1.0%	1	0.3%	6	1.6%	159	41.6%
Grade 10	384	36	9.4%	60	15.6%	72	18.8%	4	1.0%	3	0.8%	4	1.0%	179	46.6%
Grade 9	373	29	7.8%	53	14.2%	61	16.4%	1	0.3%	2	0.5%	8	2.1%	154	41.3%
Nazareth Area Middle School															
Grade 8	416	23	5.5%	32	7.7%	49	11.8%	3	0.7%	0	0.0%	3	0.7%	110	26.4%
Grade 7	383	20	5.2%	31	8.1%	39	10.2%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	5	1.3%	96	25.1%
Nazareth Area Intermediate School															
Grade 6	381	12	3.1%	37	9.7%	75	19.7%	0	0.0%	2	0.5%	8	2.1%	134	35.2%
Grade 5	332	14	4.2%	25	7.5%	54	16.3%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	6	1.8%	100	30.1%
Grade 4	344	16	4.7%	22	6.4%	68	19.8%	5	1.5%	2	0.6%	6	1.7%	119	34.6%
Shafer Elementary School															
Grade 3	163	7	4.3%	19	11.7%	32	19.6%	0	0.0%	2	1.2%	4	2.5%	64	39.3%
Grade 2	143	1	0.7%	14	9.8%	29	20.3%	1	0.7%	0	0.0%	1	0.7%	46	32.2%
Grade 1	150	3	2.0%	17	11.3%	33	22.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	2.0%	56	37.3%
Kindergarten	112	6	5.4%	11	9.8%	20	17.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.9%	38	33.9%
Lower Nazareth Elementary School															
Grade 3	97	2	2.1%	9	9.3%	10	10.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.0%	22	22.7%
Grade 2	91	3	3.3%	9	9.9%	14	15.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	26	28.6%
Grade 1	81	0	0.0%	3	3.7%	11	13.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	2.5%	16	19.8%
Kindergarten	91	5	5.5%	13	14.3%	17	18.7%	0	0.0%	1	1.1%	0	0.0%	36	39.6%
Kenneth Butz Elementary School															
Grade 3	97	1	1.0%	12	12.4%	17	17.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	4.1%	34	35.1%
Grade 2	104	5	4.8%	9	8.7%	31	29.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	45	43.3%
Grade 1	91	6	6.6%	11	12.1%	32	35.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	49	53.8%
Kindergarten	100	2	2.0%	9	9.0%	12	12.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	23	23.0%
Total	4,723	284	6.0%	509	10.8%	776	16.43%	25	0.5%	14	0.3%	66	1.40%	1,674	35.4%

Question: We'd like to know if and how the discipline procedures in the student handbook will be updated

Answer:

- In keeping with past practice, student handbooks are reviewed and updated annually and will be provided to families no later than the start of school and posted on the building websites.
- The discipline sections of the student handbooks are updated if needed due to regulatory changes and guidance, for example, changes in Board policy and/or school law.

Question: If cases rise in the community, which do not indicate ages but we know they are driven by the unusually high number of nursing home/senior care facilities in our county, what are the measures that will apply? If kids stay home due to non-masking, how will they be accommodated?

Answer:

- At the moment the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Health do not have guidance or requirements on school masking due to COVID-19 cases.
- If students are unable to attend in-person instruction due to the implementation of masking requirements in schools and/or quarantining for a week or less, teachers will provide asynchronous work and support students in their learning upon return.
- If students are unable to attend in-person instruction due to the implementation of masking requirements in schools and/or quarantining for more than a week, the district would look to implement other modes of direct instruction. The district will work directly with each individual family to meet the student's learning needs.

Question: How will we know if the board updates the plan?

Answer:

- The district will communicate the plan revisions and posting to the district website through our usual modes of communication (School Messenger, social media and the district website).

Question: Will the public have at least 5 business days to review and provide comment or ask questions?

Answer:

- Yes.