

This is a summary of the Northwestern Schools COVID Fall re-start plan. It is by no means comprehensive and will continue to be revised in greater detail through the July 20th Northwestern Board of Education Meeting and amended afterwards as new situations and information evolves. We are starting 5 days per week regular school day times.

Safety Protocol:

The state of Ohio and County Health Dept. have provided rules and guidance regarding the re-start of schools with safeguards in place. Much of what we have included in our plan is based upon their restrictions or recommendations.

Know that Northwestern Schools have a responsibility to provide a quality education as well as to ensure the safety of our students and staff. Bringing in many people in a condensed space is challenging in these times. We are not attempting to control the private lives of our families, staff, or students. However, the best way to minimize the risk for us all is to use good common sense and act responsibly. Face coverings- shields or masks are highly recommended for everyone. However, there are conditions, fears, and other reasons some individuals (and children) cannot follow this recommendation; therefore, we are acting with due diligence, cautiously, while striving to continue providing for our students, employees, and families during this very challenging situation.

1. Transportation:

- Two students per bench seat on a bus maximum
- Buses will be disinfected after each route in high touch surfaces
- Face coverings (defined as face-shield or face-mask) are required for drivers
- Facemasks required for all students riding a bus or other school transportation
- Bus drivers will have disposable masks on the bus for those students who are at their stop who have forgotten or do not have their facemask

2. Classrooms:

- Class capacity will be determined to maximize safety considerations of 6-ft social distancing by classroom square footage, but realize that every school district, building, and classroom is different – so this will vary somewhat
- Each principal will make every effort to spread students in order to minimize class numbers
- Per the health Dept. employee face coverings will be required when in room with students and within 6 ft. of any student. Employees are encouraged to wear face coverings whenever students are in their classroom and as much as feasibly possible.
- Seating charts required and adhered to in EVERY classroom, on EVERY bus, at lunch, in EVERY room. Will all help with contact tracing in event of a positive, verified case from Health Dept. Could save from having to close entire building or wing by only addressing those students in their classroom, grade, or 6-ft area throughout the day - if there would be a positive COVID case
- Classrooms will be sanitized whenever a new group of students enters the classroom

- Restrooms, playgrounds, cafeterias, hand rails and other areas of the buildings will be cleaned regularly throughout the day. The Building Principal will create a date, time, initials sanitizing/cleaning posted checksheet for each classroom, library, work room, restroom, etc. Rooms utilized by groups of people – children and/or adults.
- Classrooms and other areas throughout the building will be sanitized nightly
- Clear partitions will be purchased for some classroom areas in some situation to maximize social distancing

3. Contingency Plans:

The three plans include:

- Plan A: Normal Return: In school or remote learning - Students attend 'in-school' full-time or through remote learning. This is the

Since the curriculum and instruction during remote learning will mirror in-school learning as best as possible. Due to the sensitive health nature of COVID students using remote learning can return to in-school at any time and students starting in-school can switch to remote learning per principal and parent collaborative request.

- Plan B: Blended Learning – This will be used **only** if the superintendent determines to slow down at some point due to health considerations and reduce population by 50%. Only half of the students will attend in-school each day.

For example, one group would go on Mondays, Wednesdays and the second group would go Tuesdays, Thursdays. Fridays would be used for professional development and teacher planning. Students would be grouped based on balanced bus routes with a goal to limit bus seating to one student per seat unless students reside in the same household.

Plan B includes mandatory face-masks for all students and staff. Those not willing to comply would have the option for remote learning.

This option may be used if districts have to reduce the number of students attending in-school and will be influenced by changing health Dept. or state requirements.

Under this plan, K-12 students participating in remote learning will continue that model.

- Plan C: Remote Learning for all grades K-12.

If districts are directed into another school closure, students will use the remote learning model

It is a priority that the academic needs of students and those with unique circumstances are all supported “regardless of school setting.”

The district has been working with the Ohio Dept. of Education, County Health Dept., Governor DeWine’s office, as well as with other area superintendents to develop our reopening plan and

contingencies. These are subject to change and may well need to be adjusted throughout the year depending on new information and changes as a result of the pandemic.

Northwestern hopes that teachers, staff, parents, and students are comfortable with the district's reopening plans and parents choose to send students to school full-time. There is no substitute for the quality, in-person, problem-based learning that our extraordinary Northwestern Teachers provide. In-person instruction is the best learning environment.

We will be taking the appropriate steps to make sure students know how to follow all the guidelines for safety while in school and we are comfortable with that decision.

- A contingency plan is to be created in the event of an outbreak. This is in process and will be forthcoming. It will include the possibility of a temporary closure of schools by classroom, grade, building, or district. Such an event would include online communication and instruction in such an event
- Plans will be formulated by Principals in collaboration with the School Nurse relative to isolation if a student is ill until parent arrives
- Plans will be formulated by Principals, the Superintendent, and the School Nurse relative to a student who has tested positive for COVID. This will include sanitization protocol and communication with parents. This may include classroom, grade, building, or district temporary school closure as well as a future "return to school" plan
- This plan will be shared with staff and parents
- Any ill student or staff-member will be sent home. If the individual has COVID symptom(s) a test will be required and/or quarantine period will occur – Superintendent will make this determination in consultation with the Building Principal, School Nurse, and Wayne County Health Dept.
- In the event of a positive test additional precautions will occur as recommended by the Superintendent who will make this determination in consultation with the Building Principal, School Nurse, and Wayne County Health Dept. which may include:
 - Complete immediate sanitization of all relevant areas
 - Quarantine days for a designated group of students and staff by group, class, grade level, building, or district
 - Requested mandatory testing of a select group of students by an area COVID testing center with the support of the Wayne County Health Dept.
 - Mandatory face-masks or face-shields for a period of days by a designated group of students and staff by group, class, grade level, building, or district
 - Possible partial closure (see contingency Plan B below)
 - Possible school building or district school closure (see contingency Plan C below – students would then revert to a period of time via on-line learning)

4. Lunch:

- 10 students per table are the maximum allowed.
- No self-service foods are permitted

- Condiments must be individual no large pump for condiments that is shared
- 6-foot student spacing is to be arranged in the cafeterias
- Overall lunchroom room capacity shall remain at 50% maximum
- Plans will be developed where students may each lunch in classrooms or alternate areas such as gymnasiums stages, or other areas

5. Recess:

- Playgrounds may be used by principal discretion. However, we will try more structured activities and limit equipment use that requires a lot of touching
- Parents may opt out of recess for their child
- Equipment will be sanitized between each group, if used

6. Building:

- It is recommended that all students wear masks at school, except PreK-2 where it is not recommended. No expectation or recommendation that students wear masks during their lunch, recess, or in gym class. There currently is no requirement to check the temperatures of all students. However, Northwestern does plan to do this each morning and is in the process of securing additional touchless thermometers with the intent of checking temperatures of students in first period classes and when otherwise needed.
- If students feel they have a temperature or where it is suspected and the temperature is over 100 or if student has other symptoms of COVID or any illness students should be checked, then they will be isolated and/or sent home. Isolation may be in the clinic, special room, or in the district office until the parent is able to take the child home or the school is able to transport the student home.
- Student temperatures will be checked daily. It is anticipated that this will occur in 1st period class (after the student ambient skin temperature has cooled or warmed from outside temperature extremes)
- Staff monitoring of temperatures will be the honor system of checking themselves, each other, or go to nurse or clinic to be checked. Temperatures over 100 degree or other symptoms of COVID or illness will be referred to the School Nurse
- Signage is to be posted reminding students and staff of social distancing & hygiene related reminders – such as handwashing, not touching face, social distancing, etc.
- Every classroom, school bus, anywhere with seating will require assigned seating. Seating charts required and adhered to in EVERY classroom, on EVERY bus, at lunch, in EVERY room. Will all help with contact tracing in event of a positive, verified case from Health Dept. Could result in quarantine of a group of students, intense sanitization, as well as 3-day wait prior to occupying a particular space. It could save from having to close entire building or wing by only addressing those students in their classroom, grade, or 6-ft area throughout the day - if there would be a positive COVID case
- Classrooms and other areas with students will be sanitized by teacher with any change of classes/students
- Students and Employees will receive constant reminders of social distancing, proper handwashing, refraining from touching their face, coughing or sneezing in the shoulder, proper hygiene, etc. This will incl. signage, times for verbal reminders, and ongoing reminders

- The elementary before & after school programs will operate as long as sufficient numbers and interest continue

7. Visitors:

- Visitors will be permitted beyond the office by appointment only
- Temperature checks will be required for all visitors

8. Athletics and Extracurricular Activities:

- OHSAA has control over athletic programs
- Currently practices and conditioning for extracurricular sports are occurring
- It is anticipated that fall sports will occur, with OHSAA safeguards and rules in place
- On 7-8-2020 the state announced no spectators at sporting events (this may be extended through fall sports or they may allow spectators with social distancing guidelines and other safety protocol)
- Most nonathletic competitions/events will not occur. Some FFA activities may be the exception (and possibly some others) due to smaller groups of students and ease of social distancing
- Parents will be permitted to transport their players to and/or from competitions or events off campus per written liability waiver form. Will reduce numbers of students on buses and help with social distancing on the buses
- Band Directors to hold band camps, practices, rehearsals continue. Most districts still holding band camps
- It is unlikely that marching band and cheerleaders will be permitted to travel or perform at away contests this fall

9. School Calendar:

- The district anticipates some minor adjustments to the school calendar in order to provide time, coordination, and professional development for our teachers and staff.
- Late arrival days are likely to be cancelled and replaced by 3 full days off throughout the school year
- Adjustments to some of the scheduled professional development days are likely to occur and be shifted to immediately prior to the start of the school year in order to provide professional development and planning for the “new normal” start of school
- This calendar adjustment is anticipated to be approved at the July 20th School Board Meeting

Face-to-Face instruction or Virtual instruction options:

The COVID has forced many changes and considerations. As a single community we care about our students, families, and our community as a whole. Northwestern Schools understands the concerns for safety and welfare as families weigh the need of student growth and an excellent education against serious health concerns. We want to be here as a support and provide a viable virtual option.

We feel there is no substitute for live, interactive face-to-face classroom, lab, and field instruction. We have the greatest confidence in the expertise of our high quality teachers and supportive professionals. Northwestern highly recommends face-to-face classroom instruction in our schools. If this is not possible due to parent concerns or in event of a potential temporary school closure we will be prepared for as

vigorous, supportive, interactive online education as feasible. Parents will have the choice of returning to the school setting or utilizing virtual learning. It is Northwestern's plan to ensure the best possible online education that provides the support and reassurance of our teaching professionals in regard to course content, curriculum, assessments, and communications with students and parents. We are working with Progress Book in an effort to build the structure that is anticipated to be aligned to our course content being taught in person. This is a new platform which we will be studying and likely pursuing. Students participating in the virtual option remain Northwestern students and can return to the face-to-face learning when determining to return. Students participating in the virtual option, being Northwestern students, will continue to be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities and other school events and events.

Understand that while the classroom content with this online Progress Book platform will be very similar to what is actively being taught in the classroom, there may be some elements missing – which simply are unable to be taught in an online or virtual method. Also, there may be some Middle School or High School courses, which simply are not able to be taught online. Parents selecting the online option will need to be actively involved with the daily learning occurring through this virtual learning. Understand that there may be ZOOM interaction and other learning software and methods as part of this virtual instruction. The school will provide a Chromebook, but parents are responsible for the internet connectivity and/or access. In addition, we anticipate a collaboration between parent, student, and teacher in monitoring, completing assignments, and communicating needs, issues, concerns.

We envision this to be more personal, interactive, and communicative than online “cookie cutter” courses, as they will be aligned to what is being taught in the classrooms. We anticipate the same personalized relationship, support, and communication that our students deserve, our teachers have traditionally delivered, and our parents desire.

The administrative Team has been meeting and discussing the structure of our virtual programming. We are also scheduling additional meetings with teachers and school board members prior to completing the virtual plan details. Details should be forthcoming near the end of July in addition to teacher training prior to the start of the school year. Parents interested in pursuing the virtual educational option please contact your building principal to discuss details further. Understand that building offices are not staffed until Aug. 1st. We encourage contacting your building principal after July 20th (prefer by e-mail, if possible) if you are interested in the virtual learning option.

All of these plans are subject to adjustment as we learn more and experience more. Please remain safe, happy, and enjoy your summer!

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