



Newark Community High School

District No. 18

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Newark High School Re-Opening Plan

Parents have been provided the option to either have their child attend school either in person or remotely. This plan will provide guidance for both options. The first day of school is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19th and it will be the ODD classes (1,3,5,7 and SRT).

Remember, in order for Newark High School to conduct in-person instruction, we MUST follow the guidance documents that ISBE releases. This guidance includes, among many other guidelines, all of the following:

- Students and staff are required to wear face coverings at all times, including bus transportation, except while eating and during band.
- Social distancing must be observed, as much as possible.
- Daily symptom screening and temperature checks are required for all individuals entering the school building or a school bus. Parents may daily self-certify that their children are free of symptoms.
- Gatherings of more than 50 individuals in one space are prohibited.
- Districts must increase school-wide cleaning and disinfection.

In Person Instruction

- Students and staff will be required to wear masks while inside the building. They will also need to wear them outside if they are not social distanced. We will provide students and staff with masks if needed and everyone is expected to wear them properly every day. If you have your own masks you can wear those as long as they are appropriate and worn correctly. Anyone that refuses to wear a mask appropriately will be required to leave the building. Those with documented medical concerns will be handled on a case by case basis.
- Maintain social distancing whenever possible. Students will not be allowed to enter the school until 7:45am and will leave by 3:15pm (unless they have a legitimate reason to stay). Desks will be spaced out in classrooms to the best of our ability. Directional arrows will be placed in the hallways. Lockers will not be used, students will use their backpacks. Restroom usage will only allow a few students at a time.
- Cleaning and disinfecting will occur on a daily basis and common touch points will be addressed frequently throughout the school day.
- Students that attend IVVC will have a combination of in person and remote learning days. Remote learning will be off campus and done with IVVC instructors.
- Our lawyers have developed a practical way to fulfill the self-certification requirement. This requirement of students and staff consists of everyone checking their temperature each morning and recognizing that they are free of symptoms

“Success is achieved by cooperation in teaching and learning.”

BEFORE leaving the house. **It is imperative that the students and staff with a fever exceeding 100.4 or who are experiencing COVID-related symptoms do NOT get on a bus or come to school.**

- To the greatest extent possible, parents and guardians who can transport their children or allow them to drive to and from school are encouraged to do so. Bus service is available, but capacity limits, social distancing and wearing masks will make this more challenging this year.
- We will also be checking everyone's temperature prior to entering Newark HS. This step insures that we know without a doubt that anyone entering the school is fever free.
- Traditional grades will be used. Unlike last Spring when we had No Harm limitations, we will be operating our grading practices normally no matter if you are face to face or remote learning.
- We will follow our Odd and Even daily schedule no matter which learning choice each student selects. So everyone begins school at 8 am and finishes at 3 pm.
- When students arrive in the morning they should go directly to their first class (either 1st or 2nd period depending on the day).
- Lunch will have fewer than 50 people and will be socially distanced as students will NOT be wearing masks while eating. We will be using the outdoor patio as long as weather is permissible. During bad weather we will utilize empty classrooms if needed.
- Locker rooms will be locked and only utilized with supervision and proper social distancing. If these two things cannot be done properly, they will be off limits.
- Band and Choir will be outside as weather allows. Proper social distancing will be maintained. During inclement weather band and choir will have alternative curricular activities planned to enhance their programs.

Remote Learning

- During the Remote Learning option all students will be expected to follow their daily class schedule via Zoom and will get their assignments through Google Classroom.
- All assignments are required and expected to be turned in, just as if you were here in class.
- Traditional grades will be used. Unlike last Spring when we had No Harm limitations, we will be operating our grading practices normally no matter if you are face to face or remote learning.
- We will follow our Odd and Even daily schedule no matter which learning choice each student selects. So everyone begins school at 8 am and finishes at 3 pm.
- Students must have their face shown during learning. No black or blank screen will be allowed. That would be considered skipping class.
- Any student that struggles, disengages with this format or sees a significant drop in their grade will be required to return to NCHS for face to face instruction (if we are providing it depending on COVID status).

Other Important Items

- There is no known date for when we will be able to return to regular full-day instruction without masks or social distancing. We may have to alter our plans, schedules, or possibly completely close our campus and go to full Remote Learning. **Everyone must be prepared for that to occur at any time with little or no warning.**
- Our Board Approved Return to School Plan with masks and social distancing is:
 - Hybrid Return to School Plan will divide students into 2 groups (by alphabet) having 1 group come to school M/T with the other group Remote Learning on Zoom following the bell schedule. Then on Wednesday, everyone would Remote Learn to allow for a thorough cleaning of the building. Then on TH/F the other group (by alphabet) would come to school and the other group Remote Learns on Zoom following the bell schedule.
 - or
 - Fulltime Remote Learning
- Due to this uncertainty, students need to take their school materials home each day.
- Parents need to make sure they have access to their student's grades through PowerSchool. This will help with communications and to track your children's grades and missing work.
- Three of our 5 Remote Planning Days are as follows – September 4, September 18 and October 9. These days our students will **not** have school as our faculty will be working together on how to improve our remote instruction. Remote learning best practice is going to be an ongoing professional development focus for our school.

We realize that this does not completely answer all of your questions, nor is it a plan that everyone will like. After much feedback from our community, our staff and our transition teams, this is the best course of action for now and we will have to be flexible to make adjustments as needed.

We will be sharing a very detailed Re-Opening plan with everyone next week. We will continue to share updates as they happen. Thank you for your support and patience during these challenging and uncertain times.

Sincerely,



Amy Smith - Superintendent

Jim Still - Principal