



NORTH THURSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES • 305 COLLEGE STREET NE, LACEY, WASHINGTON 98516
TELEPHONE: (360) 412-4400 • FAX: (360) 412-4410 • WWW.NTHURSTON.K12.WA.US

Resolution 27-19/20 WA Schools 2020-21 Reopening Plan for NTPS - Board Approved 08/18/2020

School Reopening Plan for 2020-21

Instructional Model

In alignment with the Washington state Department of Health (DOH) regulations requiring 6 ft. between students when seated in the classroom, it has been determined that not all North Thurston Public Schools (NTPS) students can be accommodated within classrooms at the same time on the same day; therefore, the instructional model work group chose a hybrid instructional model which includes some face-to-face instruction on-site with remote continuous learning off-site. The schedule recommended below was the favorite option of the work group and of NTPS certified staff, as well as families

We also recommend that we offer parents the *option* of enrolling their student in a 100 percent remote continuous learning 2.0 model off-site.

Schedule

We have identified a two-day rotation for all students – Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday.

The key characteristics include:

- Split/alternating schedule on-site with continuous remote learning off-site
- Predictable schedules for families, students, teachers, community childcare, tutoring, and activities
- Priority for students within the same family to follow the same weekly schedule – M/W or T/TH
- Fridays provides equitable access to students requiring additional educational services and support

Elementary

Follows School Bell Time Schedule

Elementary ABAB 0.5 Friday (for identified students)

Students are split into 2 groups = A and B (For example: A = Last names A-K; B = Last names L-Z)*

Weekly Schedule				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group A	Group B	Group A	Group B	Students furthest from educational justice
Social Emotional Learning (SEL)	SEL	SEL	SEL	
Content	Content	Content	Content	Professional Learning Community (PLC), meetings, student support in small groups, planning and office hours
Planning and office hours	Planning and office hours	Planning and office hours	Planning and office hours	

Secondary (Middle and High Schools)

Follows School Bell Time Schedule

Periods 1-6 ABAB

Students are split into 2 groups= A and B (For Example A = Last names A-K; B = Last names L-Z)*

Weekly Schedule				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group A	Group B	Group A	Group B	Students furthest from educational justice
Period 1	Period 1	Period 4	Period 4	
Period 2	Period 2	Period 5	Period 5	PLC, meetings, student support, planning and office hours
Period 3	Period 3	Period 6	Period 6	

*Schedule assignments for families to be confirmed by August 14, 2020 based on kindergarten enrollment, 100 percent remote continuous learning enrollment, and Running Start enrollment.

Learning Standards

We are in the process of engaging teachers and administrators in leading the work of identifying the most essential learning standards for each grade level, program, and content for 2020-21.

Grading

We have been engaged in a refresh of our grading practices over the last three years. Teachers are required to follow the grading practices guidelines developed by the grading practices task force and approved by the Board of Directors. We will continue to examine how our decisions

about grading policies will affect each student group and continue to implement an equitable system of instruction, assessment, and grading.

Remote Continuous Learning 2.0

We have had a robust remote continuous learning plan 1.0 and will make enhancements to the plan for fall. Implementation of Continuous Learning 2.0 equates to online learning plus opportunities for asynchronous learning experiences.

We will be prepared to shift quickly from face-to-face instruction to remote continuous learning 2.0 as required for the public health and safety of students and staff. We will follow the same secondary schedules outlined in the above schedule chart to provide consistency for our families and students. The schedule will follow the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) guidance of 30 minutes of class per day with no more than 3 hours a day. The elementary Remote Continuous Learning 2.0 schedule will follow the OSPI guidance of PreK/ 30 minutes, K-1/45 minutes, 2-3/60 minutes, and 4-5/90 minutes per day.

Professional Development

We will have a robust professional development program created for our teachers around the following topics which our certified teachers prioritized in a recent survey:

- Learning Management System Training (Google Classroom at elementary; Canvas at secondary)
- Best practice strategies in split/rotating schedules and remote learning
- How to best use remote learning tools - Screen Castify, Mode, etc.
- Social Emotional needs of students, families, and staff in rotating/remote learning environments
- Essential standards, assessments and grading practices for the grade level, program area, or content area
- Mind the Gap; how to remediate gaps in learning in a hybrid instructional model
- Collecting and responding to student feedback in a remote environment
- Understanding the latest guidance from the health experts on COVID-19 health and safety precautions. Employees hired after the start of school year will receive this training prior to their first day with students

Family and Community Engagement and Communication

We will prioritize our efforts to ensure we meet the following targets with our hybrid instructional model:

- Engage families and community members in schooling decisions
- Provide consistent schedules for parents and families both in-school and remote
- Ensure families have a primary point of contact at each school
- Use layered, targeted, and intentional outreach and communication approaches to reach families and students
- Work with community partners to provide support for families, such as childcare

School Operations

This work group reviewed NTPS operations and plans to safely return back to school, including but not limited to safe practices around facility use and cleaning, face coverings, handwashing stations, physical distancing and more.

Face Coverings.

- Schools will follow Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Washington state DOH guidelines with regards to rules for face coverings for all staff and students
- Definition of a face covering: a hands-free fabric or plastic shield that covers the mouth and nose (this definition will be consistent throughout the District)
- Face coverings will be required for staff and students at each school and on school buses. If students cannot wear masks at school or on the bus, the District will provide a 100 percent remote continuous learning option. There will be case by case exceptions to this recommendation
- Each school and school bus will be provided with extra face coverings for students who do not come to school with one
- Staff will be provided with an appropriate face covering
- Facilities Department will arrange for the purchase of the face coverings, gloves, face shields, and other required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) items
- Create a process that helps school staff enforce the face covering rules equitably. This process must be clearly communicated and applied consistently throughout the District.
- All guidelines and processes related to face coverings will be communicated to families prior to the start of the school year
- We do not have any recommendations for sanitizing face coverings at this time

Hygiene Practices

- Universal signage will be posted throughout schools and departments
- Children and adults will be taught how to wash their hands and not touch their face
- Create a video to ensure hygiene practices and respecting personal boundaries are the same throughout the District
- Limits on how many students may use a bathroom at one time
- Provide hand sanitizer in rooms as needed;
- Longer transition times will be implemented at the school level for sanitizing or handwashing

Drop off/Pick Up and Health Screening at Entry

- Wellness checks will occur for all students and staff members
- Take advantage of the Health Check Screening app prior to arriving at school; (see Health section)
- Explore the use of bus SMART tags for health check recording
- Allow staggered arrival and dismissal procedures to be developed at the building level

- Develop a plan for teachers who must be sent home immediately due to health screening (see Personnel section)
- Each school will have a designated person in charge of screening students/staff and monitoring health (see Health section)
- Thermometers will be supplied by the District

Facility Cleaning

- Frequent cleaning of bathroom touch points by custodians
- Determine whether air dryers need to be eliminated in favor of paper towels
- Supply more garbage cans and more frequent pick-up
- Frequent cleaning of touch points by custodians in common areas
- Develop a plan that outlines the cleaning/disinfecting of desks and work surfaces between classes. Supplies will be provided by the District.
- Establish a standard procedure for procuring PPE and cleaning supplies
- Maintain proven cleaning and disinfecting standards and eliminate exposure to outside products that have the potential to affect students and staff in a negative manner

Hand Washing

- Develop a plan for students to wash their hands at least 2x per day, including when they return from playing outside
- If necessary, provide portable sinks stationed at or near portables
- Provide District-wide signage for proper hand washing

Nutrition Services

The Nutrition Services work group reviewed Food & Nutrition operations and plans to safely return back to school and explore concerns, including food safety, service options, menus and payment.

Onsite Learners

- A simplified menu of grab and go items will be offered for students to choose from
- Skyward Point of Sale (POS) system will be used to track meals served and eligibility status
- To minimize common touch points, we will explore the use of bus SMART Tags at the Point of Service in place of students entering their ID numbers on a keypad
- No salad bars or self-serve items will be offered
- Students will be served in the cafeteria/meal service area
- Meals will be packaged in portable containers to be taken with the student back to their classroom to eat or in a cafeteria or commons setting if appropriate physical distancing parameters are in place. The locations where students eat will vary from building to building

Remote Learners

- Pre-packaged grab and go meals will be made available to students who need meals on remote learning days

- A system will be developed to receive orders, track meals served, and to distribute the take-home meals (Breakfast & Lunch) on the days the students are onsite
 - Example: Student is doing onsite learning on Mondays and Wednesdays. On Monday, the student will be sent home with a cold breakfast and lunch to be eaten on Tuesday. On Wednesday, the student will be sent home with 2 breakfasts and 2 lunches for Thursday and Friday.
- The option to receive a 5-day meal kit will be made available to families who choose to enroll their students in a 100 percent remote continuous learning 2.0 model off-site
- Food safety and cooking instructions will be made available for any food item that is not self-stable and ready to eat

Transportation

Student safety is at the core of transporting our students every day. Public health is now part of that safety, including face coverings and extra bus sanitation.

School Bus

- Encourage walking, biking, use of the free Intercity Transit service or driving students to school as much as possible
- Educate and encourage families to conduct health screenings and hand washing prior to arriving at the bus stop
- Educate and encourage families who take their students to the bus stop to help maintain physical distancing
- Require registration for transportation services for each student as soon as the instructional model is provided to families
 - Utilize google forms, mail and drop off options to document registration;
 - Use all methods of communication and languages to families;
 - Outline service needed (Talented & Gifted, Envisions Career Academy, Aspire Middle School);
 - Outline the requirement of using SMART Tag
- Drivers and paraeducators will utilize cloth face coverings or face shields
- Students will wear cloth face coverings or face shields
 - Drivers will have spare disposable face coverings on hand for students
- Whenever possible try to maintain a 6 ft. distance around the driver's compartment
 - First/second row of bus seats
- Maximize outside air and keep windows open as much as possible
- Boarding and unloading buses
 - All students will have assigned seats
 - Assign seat with one person per seat, first students to board will fill the rear of the bus first;
 - If additional seats are needed, students in the same household will be assigned to the same seat

- If there are no siblings on the bus, students will be assigned with other students who are their neighborhood cohorts (pre-registration will allow routers to pre-determine seat assignments to try to keep as much social distancing as possible)
- When unloading the bus, whenever possible unload the bus from the front to the rear, reducing crossing paths
- School staff will assist with social distancing while exiting the bus at school, and in the afternoons while boarding (in order of assigned seats), rear to front
- Route Adjustments
 - Whenever possible, buses will be routed to pick up the largest stops last in the morning and drop them off first in the afternoon
 - Add time in between route tiers to allow for the cleaning of touch points
 - Add additional time to a driver's post trip for disinfecting
 - Discontinue bus passes for non-assigned routes
 - Discontinue parents boarding special needs buses to assist the student/driver.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
 - Use an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommended product that is non-flammable, District and OEM approved
 - Disinfect touch points on buses in between route tiers and at the completion of each AM/Mid-day/PM routes
 - Work with our custodial staff to utilize the electromagnetic fogger for a contaminated vehicle
- Students who are identified as ill or examined for COVID-19 symptoms will be picked up by a parent/guardian and not transported home on the bus.

Health and Personnel

The Health & Personnel work group examined a variety of areas including recommendations from OSPI regarding health screenings, face coverings, physical distancing and protecting high risk employees.

Student Health

Physical Well-being:

- All 504 and Individualized Education Program (IEP) plans will be reviewed for accommodations regarding masks/shields and physical distancing
- Launch “stay home when you are sick” campaign
- Complete, implement, and communicate procedures for wellness screening before school starts
- Intentional teaching of respiratory hygiene, hand washing, mask/shield wearing, and social distancing/distance will be completed
- Wellness screening method for all students not cleared at home will be done at the school level
- If a student arrives or becomes ill at school, the student will be directed to a quarantine room. The quarantine room must be big enough that two-four students/staff can be sitting or lying down 6 ft. apart; it will be identified at the school level and appropriately staffed

when needed. Ideally the room will offer optimal outdoor air and immediate exit availability without exposing any other parts of campus.

Mental Well-being:

- Incorporate Trauma Informed Practices within each classroom/school with equity and cultural responsiveness; establish a safe place for students, families, and staff to share feelings and experiences at the school level
- Review all 504 and IEP student plans for additional supports regarding their disability and establish plans for supporting the students in this new environment
- Continue implementing universal screeners, target interventions to restore/increase mental well-being, monitor student mental wellbeing, communicate to families about their child's social emotional well-being
- Establish a point person for mental health at each school, review crisis protocols, and partner with community mental health
- Assist families with learning about student well-being and provide basic needs via the Family and Youth Resource Center (FYR Center)
- Continue to de-stigmatize mental health in the schools and with families and connect families with in-school and out-of-school mental health resources from community partners

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

All staff utilize the adopted curriculum K-5 (Second Step) & 6-8 (CharacterStrong) pilot 9-12 high school curriculum (CharacterStrong) as assigned to build strong relationships with students, make a brief personal connection with each student, and focus on listening to students.

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

All schools implement PBIS – review, revise and establish “routines” within the school and classroom to include COVID-19 expectations; 3-5 positively stated expectations on classroom behavior taught, incentivized and re-taught; reestablish a safe and secure classroom climate.

Trauma:

Traumatic experiences have increased because of COVID-19. Be thoughtful of triggers, appreciate that the uncertainty of the COVID-19 environment will be challenging for staff as well as the students, communicate with families and allow them to tell you about the issues they anticipate will be a challenge to their student(s), celebrate what they have accomplished this last year and create strategies to assist them, extended learning activities and time for students most impacted, utilize the translation and interpreting services provided by the District.

Discipline:

Establish schoolwide management expectations and behavior routines consistent with additional health and safety requirements and adjust classroom management plans accordingly; communicate and calibrate expectations for staff responses to student behavior associated with health and safety requirements, such as the use of personal protective equipment (PPE); plan for responses to students with behavior intervention plans; and respond to disproportionate discipline referrals.

Staff Health

Face coverings:

- All employees will wear a cloth face covering or protective face shield while at the worksite, per Washington state Labor and Industries (L&I) guidelines
- The District will provide face coverings for all employees and students
- Employees may choose to provide their own face coverings
- Employees working with students who cannot wear a face covering for the reasons approved by the DOH will be provided appropriate PPE

Health Screenings:

- Employees will complete a wellness screening prior to reporting to work
- Employees assisting with wellness screenings of students will be provided appropriate PPE by the District as described by the DOH, CDC, and L&I

Physical Distancing:

- Capacity for students and staff in any facility and/or classroom will be limited by physical distancing requirements set by DOH
- The District will provide appropriate PPE and training for employees who must perform tasks that cannot be accomplished with physical distancing

Handwashing:

- The District will provide adequate facilities and supplies for staff handwashing as required by CDC guidelines

Exclusion of students and staff with COVID-19 symptoms:

- Students and staff who display COVID-19 symptoms will be immediately excluded from the classroom setting
- Classrooms and other facilities used by a student or staff who displayed COVID-19 symptoms will be disinfected according to CDC, DOH, and OSPI guidelines
- Employees who were exposed to a student or staff member who is excluded for COVID-19 will be notified as soon as possible
- Personnel assigned to supervise quarantine rooms will be provided appropriate PPE

Employees in risk categories:

- The District will request that employees at increased risk for severe illness due to medical categories as defined by the CDC self-identify. No employee in an increased risk category shall be required to work without PPE, on any task that cannot be performed without physical distancing, or with students or staff who cannot wear face coverings.

Enrollment/Attendance and Reporting

We will follow OSPI guidelines to report enrollment through the P-223 and P-223H processes. This plan will comply with requirements to receive state funding.

We are working with OSPI on how to report 100 percent remote continuous learning and will follow all requirements to ensure continued funding.

We will follow all guidance and direction from OSPI for student attendance and student engagement reporting requirements, including taking attendance and maintaining attendance records regardless of the model of instructional delivery (see OSPI Reopening Washington Schools: Questions & Answers for School Districts).

Athletics and Activities

Athletics

We have started high school summer athletic programs and are planning for the fall in response to the guidance provided from state and local agencies, OSPI, DOH and Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA).

With guidance from the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) and the WIAA we devised a comprehensive summer plan to allow North Thurston Public Schools resume athletic programming when Thurston County moved to Phase 3 of the Safe Restart Plan for Washington State. We recognize it is essential to the physical and mental well-being of high school students to return to athletic competition while maintaining the safety and health of the community. The guidelines and regulations will be followed by coaches/supervisors, student athletes, and their families.

- All coaches/supervisors will receive training through safe schools on Coronavirus Awareness
- All participants will wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer prior to entering the facility and after each session
- All coaches/supervisors will follow the most current safety guidelines
- All coaches/supervisors will record the temperatures and responses to screening questions for each participant (athletes and supervisors)
- Any person with positive symptoms reported should not be allowed to take part in a training session
- Each athlete must have their own water bottle and athletic clothing. These items must not be shared.
- Athletes are encouraged to shower and wash clothing immediately upon returning home

Athletic Guidelines Specific to Phase 3

Limitations on Gatherings for Phase 3

- No gathering of more than 50 people at a time inside or outside. Indoors, there must be enough space for physical distancing (generally 35 square feet per person).
- If locker rooms or meeting rooms are used, there must be a minimum distance of 6 ft. between each individual at all times
- Workouts should be conducted in “pods” of students with the same 5-10 students always working out together. Smaller pods can be utilized for weight training. Pods should remain separate with a buffer zone. The students in a pod should be consistent from day to day. This ensures more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
- There must be a minimum distance of 6 ft. between each individual at all times. If this is not possible indoors, then the maximum number of individuals in the room must be

decreased until proper physical distancing can occur. Attendance should remain under 50 percent of capacity of the host venue. Appropriate physical distancing will need to be maintained on sidelines and benches during practices. Use tape, cones, or paint as a guide for students and coaches.

Physical Activity and Athletic Equipment

- Lower risk sports practices and competitions may resume (see Potential Infection Risk by Sport below)
- Competitions should be limited to local geography
- Modified practices may begin for Moderate risk sports
- There should be no shared athletic towels, clothing or shoes between students
- Students should wear their own appropriate workout clothing (do not share clothing), and individual clothing/towels should be washed and cleaned after every workout
- All athletic equipment, including balls, should be cleaned intermittently during practices and contests
- Hand sanitizer should be plentiful available at all contests and practices
- Athletic equipment such as bats, batting helmets and catchers gear should be cleaned between each use
- Maximum lifts should be limited, and power cages should be used for squats and bench presses. Spotters should stand at each end of the bar

Athletic Guidelines Specific to Phase 4

Limitations on Gatherings:

- Gathering sizes over 50 individuals, indoors or outdoors. Indoors, there must be enough space for physical distancing (generally 35 square feet per person).
- When not directly participating in practices or contests, care should be taken to maintain a minimum distance of at least 6 ft. between each individual. Consider using tape, cones, or paint as a guide for students and coaches.

Physical Activity and Athletic Equipment:

- Moderate risk sports practices and competitions may begin. If spectators are allowed, physical distancing measures must be followed.
- There should be no shared athletic towels, clothing or shoes between students
- Students should wear their own appropriate workout clothing (do not share clothing), and individual clothing/towels should be washed and cleaned after every workout
- Hand sanitizer should be plentiful at all contests and practices
- Athletic equipment such as bats, batting helmets and catchers gear should be cleaned between each use. Other equipment, such as wrestling ear guards and football helmets/other pads should be worn by only one individual and not shared.
- Maximum lifts should be limited and power cages should be used for squats and bench presses. Spotters should stand at each end of the bar.

The guidance would include added safety health screening process for students who would arrive on campus on days they were not in class (remote learning days) in this case this would take place after school prior to practice or a contest.

Middle School Athletics– Middle school sports would also be following the guidance from state and local agencies, OSPI, DOH and WIAA. The goal is to have after school sports if safety guidelines permit.

Middle School fall sports are boys soccer (moderate risk) and girls volleyball (moderate risk) and boys and girls cross country (low risk sport) play.

However, if risks are too great to bring students who are not in attendance on the current day to return to campus then an alternate plan would be:

- Allow sports for only students on their attendance day. Example - 2 days per week
- Sports would be more like intramurals on these days
- All sports would stay on your school campus. No games against other schools.
- Practices and contests would be only on your campus
- Guidelines would be similar to PE classes

Activities and Clubs

Activities and clubs that fall within the safety guidelines would be allowed to happen on campus or remotely if students are not on campus. The guidelines for these would be the same as the classroom safety requirements for indoor and outdoor spaces.

NPTS Clubs and Activities include a wide range of activity levels; therefore, each activity or club will be required to submit a safety plan that is specific to their group.

Safety Plan considerations:

- Plans may be the same as our classroom guidance if the club's activity is mainly a meeting of students
- Plan would follow the PE guidelines if it is an intramural activity
- Plan for a music club would follow our Music classroom guidelines
- All activities involving movement would be encouraged to take place outside or in large areas