
Informational Update: School Reopening

1 message

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Thu, Aug 13, 2020 at 6:50 PM

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To: "Carron, Thomas-James" <tcarron@nsboro.k12.ma.us>

Notification from: **Public Schools of Northborough & Southborough**

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s):

I have two updates this evening:

1. [Reopening Schedule and Plan](#)
2. [Stand Alone Remote Program Information](#)

Reopening Schedule and Plan

I want to provide families with important school reopening information that was approved at last evening's Joint School Committee meeting. Additionally, as an educator, making a recommendation to the school committees was one of the most challenging recommendations I've had to make professionally. With each opportunity for parents, guardians, faculty, and staff, to provide their input, it is abundantly clear to me that there was no "best" model, as no matter what model was selected, there would be dissenting opinions about the decision. How do I balance this tension? For me, the guiding principle outlined in the [District Reopening Plan](#), "*Prioritize the physical, social, and emotional well-being of the school community, students and staff,*" and thinking about what is best for students, remain the beacons for my work and the work of the District.

I remind myself daily, if not hourly, that these are extraordinary times and circumstances, where there are no best solutions, only solutions with significant tradeoffs. I am also confident that this pandemic will pass. However, 'when' is uncertain. I do reflect on the qualities and traits of the organization that I want to endure while ensuring students are getting a high-quality education. Students only have a year in each grade level, and each year needs to be a year of substantial, high-quality learning, even in a pandemic. Here are the qualities and traits of the organization that I want to endure:

1. The **student-centered** focus from every employee, regardless of the role. I want every employee to have five questions in mind: What do we want students to learn? How will we know if they have learned? What will we do if they don't learn? What will we do if they already know it? Am I doing everything I can to support each student?
2. The **partnership between all stakeholders**: Students, educators, families, citizens, and town government.
3. The professional and collegial **relationships with the educators**. Educators are the most critical employees in the organization, and I want to ensure that we maintain our excellent faculty and staff.

Again, the pandemic will not last forever, and the strength of the organization must endure.

Last evening, Wednesday, August 12, 2020, the Northborough, Southborough, and Northborough-Southborough Regional School Committees approved a reopening strategy which was organized around two areas, public health criteria and differentiation. I've included a link to last evening's [school committee presentation](#) for your information. I also want to share with families key dates, which are outlined in the table below. The implemented reopening strategy will result in all schools being in a hybrid model by **October 6, 2020**. Building principals, directors, and I will communicate more detailed information in the days and weeks ahead.

Respectfully,

Gregory L. Martineau
Superintendent of Schools

Phased Strategy for Reopening (Approved August 12, 2020)

Full Remote Learning**Hybrid Learning****In-Person Learning**

Teacher Preparation	8/31 9/15	PD for staff begins August 31 - virtual and in-person, as feasible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for Health and Safety Protocols • Digital Literacy and Technology PD • Classroom Set-up • Collaborative Planning Educational campaign for parents and students Educator student connections
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In all phases, a limited number of students with significant and complex needs as well as English Learners will be prioritized for receiving in-person instruction during remote learning.

This phased and differentiated strategy for reopening is contingent upon the health metrics.

Phase 1	9/16 9/17 9/18 9/21	Pre-K Program begins in-person as per schedule in District Reopening Plans.	Grades K-12 would begin with four remote learning days. The focus will be on beginning to build a community and setting expectations. Classes will establish routines for remote learning which will be a part of the Hybrid and the Remote Learning Models. <i>All students in the Stand Alone Remote Program will also begin by building a foundation based on relationships and routines.</i>
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Phase 2	9/22 9/23 9/24 9/25	K - Grade 5: Hybrid Cohorts A and B follow a Hybrid schedule (beginning 9/22)	Grades 6-12: Remote Students continue their course work in remote learning mode.
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Phase 3	9/29 9/30 10/1 10/2 10/5	Grades 6-8: Hybrid Cohorts A and B follow a Hybrid schedule (beginning 9/29)	Grades 9 -12: Remote Students continue their course work in remote learning mode.
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Phase 4	10/6	Grades 9-12: Hybrid Cohorts A and B follow a Hybrid schedule (beginning 10/06)	
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Phase 5	Health Metrics	PreK - 12: Full In-Person with health and safety precautions	
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Regardless of the reopening strategy, the data and reopening phase will be evaluated weekly due to the virus's dynamic nature.

Stand Alone Remote Program Information

The Stand Alone Remote Program is designed to meet the needs of families who require or prefer a fully remote educational option during the pandemic. The Stand Alone Remote Program will follow the same calendar as the other learning models (in-person, hybrid, or remote).

[Stand Alone Remote Presentation](#)

Stand Alone Sign-Up Form

Due 8/19/2020 by 9:00 AM

Our intention is to create a community of learners in the Stand Alone Remote Program with Northborough/Southborough educators as the teachers or supervisors of learning experiences. At the elementary level, students will be grouped across schools to create “classes” of students assigned to a teacher. Middle school students will also be grouped across schools. At the middle and high school level, students will have different teachers for different classes much like they would during an in-person experience. They will have a daily and weekly schedule that structures their time.

Instructional methods will be adapted to the remote learning environment. Students will engage in classes that are aligned to the same curriculum standards as their peers who might be attending school in-person.

At the high school and middle school levels, students will have access to the appropriate level of course work in all subject areas. Electives will be offered, however, there will likely be limitations in terms of elective options due to the constraints of staffing.

We will offer secondary-level courses in the Stand Alone Remote Program based on the needs of the students enrolled in the program which means that the courses cannot be determined prior to families opting into the program. In order to meet the needs of the full range of learners, we may offer some courses through third-party vendors. However, a student’s progress in these on-line courses would be supervised and supported by a Northborough/Southborough educator.

Students that participate in the Stand Alone Remote Program who have special education needs will receive special education services under this model. In addition, the District will develop a plan for delivering English Learner Education for students in the Stand Alone Remote Program for English learners.

The specifics of how we will structure and implement this program is highly dependent on the number of students enrolled and their learning needs as well as staffing availability. The model is subject to further development and change based on these factors.

If extra-curricular activities or school-wide events are offered virtually, students from the Stand Alone Remote Program will be able to participate.

Master Schedule

	PK-K	1-5	6-8	9- 12
School Hours for Students*	8:30 - 2:30	8:30 - 2:30	8:30 - 2:30	8:30 - 2:30
Total Structured Learning Time	Each school will provide students with a structured schedule that is based on the in-person schedule. Students will participate in structured learning activities that meet the time requirements provided by DESE, which are equivalent to the in-person requirements. All classes and subjects will meet according to that schedule and address the full set of state learning standards. Structured learning time will include whole group instruction, small group meetings, project work, accessing videos, and independent activities based on resources provided by educators.			
Teacher-directed (whole group and smaller break out groups)	Multiple times daily	Multiple times daily	Daily per class	Daily per class
Support Services	Students will receive all of the services documented in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) through in-person instruction, remote instruction or a combination of the two. The District will make every effort to provide as much in-person instruction as is safely possible.			
Accountability	Attendance will be taken on a daily basis. Students' work will be assessed and graded throughout the period of remote learning in ways that are consistent with in-person learning. Educators will use standard grading and reporting procedures and protocols at all levels.			
PreK-12 daily schedules will include lunch and breaks. * The exact times for the school day may change as schools develop specific schedules.				

Sample HS Schedule

Fully Remote		
Remote for All Students		
Period	Monday	Tues-Fri
Teacher Meetings/PD	7:30-8:00	
		8:00-8:30
Period 1	8:00-8:40 (40)	
Period 2	8:45-9:25 (40)	
Period 3	9:30-10:10 (40)	
Break (15)	10:15-10:30 (15)	
Period 4	10:35-11:15 (40)	
Period 5	11:20-11:55 (40)	
Lunch	12:00-12:30 (30)	
Period 6	12:35-1:15 (40)	
Period 7	1:20-2:00 (40)	
WIN Block (Office Hours)	2:00-2:30	
Teacher Meetings/PD	2:30-3:00	

Sample Middle School Schedule

FULL REMOTE SCHEDULE					
	MONDAY (Day 1)	TUESDAY (Day 2)	WEDNESDAY (Day 3)	THURSDAY (Day 4)	FRIDAY (Day 5)
Period 1 8:30-9:10AM					
Period 2 9:20-10AM					
Period 3 10:10-10:50AM					
8TH GRADE LUNCH 10:50 11:30AM					
Period 4 6th and 7th Grade: 10:50-11:30AM 8th Grade: 11:30AM-12:10PM					
7TH GRADE LUNCH: 11:30AM-12:10PM					
Period 5 6th Grade: 11:30-12:10PM 7th and 8th Grade: 12:20-1PM					
6th GRADE LUNCH: 12:10-1PM					
Period 6 1:10-1:50PM					
Period 7 2-2:40PM					

Sample Elementary Schedule

SAMPLE Student Schedule
REMOTE LEARNING MODEL
Monday
8:30-2:30

Time:	Block:
30-45 minutes	Class Meeting Live with Teacher
15 minutes	AM Screen Break
90 minutes	ELA (Reading and Writing) Teacher Directed Asynchronous/Synchronous Learning
15 minutes	Break/Snack
60 minutes	Mathematics Teacher Directed Asynchronous/Synchronous Learning
45-60 minutes	Lunch/Recess
30 minutes	Science/Social Studies Teacher Directed Asynchronous/Synchronous Learning
15 minutes	Screen Break
40 minutes	Physical Education, Music, Art and Library with Teachers
1:00-2:30 90 minutes	Asynchronous Learning Block- *Project Based Learning *Independent practice and reinforcement *Assigned and/or choice based

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