

# **NORTH WARREN CENTRAL SCHOOL**

## **Appendix A**

Program description for:

Remote Learning

COVID - 19 Testing

Contact Tracing

**Version 1: August 14, 2020**

Dear North Warren Families, Staff and Community:

Last week we had the exciting news that Governor Cuomo made the decision to permit schools to reopen this fall, providing an approved school reopening plan that would demonstrate health and safety for students and employees. Our first version of the plan was posted on July 31st.

The Governor has now asked that we extract and separately post the following components from our plans: Remote Learning, Covid 19 testing and Contact tracing. Those specific parts are attached to this for your convenience.

Finally, the Governor is requiring that each school host at least three public meetings with parents, community members and stakeholders to address and discuss potential concerns or outstanding questions regarding school opening in the fall. I had announced those via a robo call on Monday and our first one was Wednesday, August 12th at 3 pm. Our next two are scheduled for Monday, August 17th at 9 am and Tuesday, August 18th at 6 pm. Our website has the information on how to join the virtual meetings.

We also on our website have an on-going Q and A for parents and community members to reference.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michele G. French, Superintendent

## **REMOTE LEARNING**

*This is version 1 extracted from the website.*

During the course of our discussions with stakeholder groups, different educational models were explored and the feasibility of each model was considered based on the resources available to us, our regional health metrics, and the guidance that we received from the New York State Department of Health and New York State Education Department. As a result of these different factors, we will be focusing on in-person instruction that will provide daily face-to-face education for all students Pre-K-12.

Given the highly contagious and opportunistic nature of COVID-19, our school district will provide accommodations to students who are at a high risk or who live with a person who is at a high risk of complications as a result of COVID-19. Each case will be approached depending on the individual situation, but these vulnerable populations will be educated through remote learning via Google classroom. In addition to this, we understand that certain student and staff populations may require modifications to social distancing or PPE based on hearing loss or impairment; receipt of language services, or because they are a young student in an early education program. In these scenarios, we may utilize or increase social distancing when possible and ensure that any modifications would minimize COVID-19 exposure risk for students, faculty, and staff to the greatest extent possible.

- Students: If you are unable to attend in-person schooling due to medical issues or a family vulnerability you can attend via Google Meets during the scheduled class time each day.

### **Instruction, School Schedules**

We hope to return to “normalcy” by fall and are planning for on campus instruction for all students PK-12. However, teachers are preparing a remote learning experience in the event we need to pivot from in person learning to remote at any point prior to opening or once we have opened.

Parents who have indicated via our survey that they are choosing to opt out of in-person learning will be sent an official opt out form, which will be kept on file. Parents opt out decisions will be for a minimum of one semester. The form must be received by August 21st. Once the official form is returned, the student will only be able to transition from remote learning to in-person learning after January 22, 2021.

- **Remote for opt out/compromised students:**

Students who are compromised and/or cannot do in-person will follow the schedule as if in person and meet at the times provided on their schedule through live streaming of classes using Google Meets

***Please note: We are currently working on this part of the plan to potentially eliminate the full time synchronous model of instruction in order to reduce screen time for students who have opted for remote instruction through January 22, 2021. We have been thinking carefully about how to give our students who are engaging in remote learning personal time and attention from their classroom teachers. More information to come.***

- Grading: Students learning remotely will be graded the same as if in person with all assignments, assessments, projects, etc. to reflect mastery of learning standards.

- **Full Remote Learning for ALL Students, if circumstances require a closure of NW:**

All students will be using Chromebooks to attend their classes as per defined remote schedules with Google Meets.

Elementary: 5 days per week live interaction via meets at specific times per grade levels

- Times TBD by grade level/classroom teacher, if we go remote.
- Teachers will be available during school hours to assist students when not providing whole group or individual Google Meets.
- Grading: Students learning remotely will be graded the same as if in person with all assignments, assessments, projects, etc. to reflect mastery of learning standards.

MS/HS: A day and B day scheduled classes and one day per week for independent work submitted and 1:1 teacher/help contact--

- A days: 4 Periods Per Day
- B days: 4 Periods Per Day
- Wednesdays each week will be designated as an independent work day. This will allow time for 1:1 help sessions, additional lab times and AP class time during school hours.
- Electives that are not needed for graduation may be paused during full remote learning to allow elective area teachers to help support core academic learning needs of students to ensure successful completion of mandatory graduation requirements.

- Grading: MS/HS grading process will remain consistent with grading practices utilized during in person learning.
- **Students without internet access at home:**

Students without internet access will be provided with paper-based, parallel activities and assignments to allow them to fully engage in the learning process. Teachers will regularly contact students and parents to ensure attendance and engagement. This will be available if students are opting out of in-person learning and/or if all instruction shifts to remote.

### **Career and Technical Education(CTE)**

While planning for CTE instruction, whether in-person or remote, NWCS has collaborated with WSWHE BOCES to ensure high school instructional plans are aligned. They have developed models that ensure NYS learning standards, applicable industry certification requirements, clinical and work based learning hours will be met. In addition, their plans follow all of NYS/DOH health and safety guidelines for social distancing. Please note: if your child is registered to attend CTE they must attend in-person at NWCS too.

BOCES plan has been completed and will be shared with families that have students attending CTE, New Visions, ECCA or Special Education classes.

Students who attend CTE will be going on a hybrid schedule and on days that students are not going to BOCES they will be released to go home.

**WSWHE BOCES Reopening Plan, “Career and Technical Education students will attend school on an alternating “A/B” day basis to the extent practicable.” [WSWHE BOCES Reopening Plan](#).**

### **Special Education**

All special education students will be ensured that their education program and services will provide equity and access to be involved in and to participate and progress in their program. While not all formats (in-person, remote) allow for maximum benefits to students, NWCS will work with families to provide accommodation, modifications, supplemental aids and service, and technology to meet the unique disability related needs of students.

Chromebooks will be offered to all special education students in primary grades who are in need of related services. All students receiving related services will participate in teletherapy sessions for speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and counseling services per each student's Individual Education Plans (IEP) if internet access allows. For those students without internet access, providers will provide paper-based parallel activities and will contact students and families using another means.

Case managers will work with teachers and providers to communicate with families to support students and keep open lines of communication regarding the provision of services to his/her child(ren). Case managers will also support students using supplementary aids and services and technology (including assistive technology). Modifications and accommodations listed on students' IEPs will be provided during both in-person and remote learning settings to meet each student's unique disability-related needs.

The CSE and CPSE committees will meet to review student performance and progress during both in-person or remote learning to ensure IEP compliance. Providers will work together to share ideas and resources to enhance the educational experience for students.

### **Bilingual Education and World Languages**

NWCS is committed to high quality instruction to ENL students. We will provide the required number of Units of Study to all ENLs based on their most recent language proficiency assessment. We will maintain regular communication with the parents/guardians and other family members to ensure that they are engaged in their children's education during the reopening process either with in-person or remote learning preferred language and mode of communication.

Chromebooks will be offered to all ENL students in primary grades who receive ELL services. All students will participate in teletherapy sessions if internet access allows. For those students without internet access, the ELL provider will provide paper-based parallel activities and will contact students and families using another means.

The case manager will work with teachers and providers to communicate with families to support students and keep open lines of communication regarding the provision of services to his/her child(ren). The case manager will also support families by offering information in their preferred language.

## **COVID-19 TESTING**

- North Warren will work closely and collaborate with the Warren County Department of Health if we have a suspected case of COVID 19.
- Anytime we have a concern about students or staff members the district liaison or Nurse will work with Warren County DOH and/or the district's medical director (HHHN) to refer students/staff for testing. The decision to test lies with the medical provider or DOH to determine the best route to take to ensure safety of all and to help advise the student's family or staff member.
- Parents and staff will be asked to check with their own primary care physician to determine if testing is necessary if they have symptoms of COVID and/or stay home due to not feeling well. If you are unable to contact or reach your primary care provided you can consult with the county health department.
- Anyone who has traveled internationally and/or to a state designated through NYS travel advisory must complete mandatory quarantine prior to returning to the school.
- Warren County Department of Health will be notified immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 diagnostic test results by an individual in the school, including students, staff, faculty, and vendors/visitors. If the employee or vendor/visitor is not a Warren County resident we will contact the county of residence and work with them too to provide a contact list.

## **CONTACT TRACING**

- Public Health Officials assume the primary responsibility for contact tracing. Upon request from the local DOH, North Warren will work immediately with them to determine, based on attendance records, transportation records and classroom/location occupancy who might have been in contact with the person(s). The school Nurse or Administrator will be in touch with DOH to decide on protocol for closures and additional cleaning.
- The Superintendent or designee, via an all district call, will alert families of a closure or change in schedule should there be a need to based on consultations with DOH .
- The Superintendent or designee will work with DOH to advise families or staff members of their course of action if they have been in contact with a person with confirmed positive COVID-19.