July 16, 2020

Dear Nevada City School District Families,

We hope you have been taking some time to relax, and spend time together without the worry of what will happen this fall. We appreciate the flexibility and adaptability you have shown during these extraordinary times. As a district we place the safety of our students and staff as our highest priority. We are working in collaboration with Nevada County Public Health (NCPH) Department, Nevada County Office of Education, stakeholders, as well as other districts in the county. On July 15, 2020 NCPH released the School’s Guide to reopening. Our staff are working tirelessly to open school to the fullest extent possible while keeping safety as the top priority.

Currently, Nevada County is not on a “watch list”. Our numbers are going up, but our hospital capacity as well as tracking and tracing are under control. We are planning for some in class instruction such as the full day A/B cohort model or a.m./p.m. for the younger students. We are waiting to make the final decision until the end of July in order to create the best plans possible for our students and families.

As we continue designing the instructional program and bargaining with labor partners (hours, wages, working/safety conditions), we thought it would be helpful to provide an update for families organized by topic.

Future timeline:

1. This update: Friday, July 16th, 2020
2. Parent zoom answering questions: last week in July
3. Board meeting voting on decision: tbd
4. Specific School Site Protection Plan submitted for approval to the Nevada County Health Department.
5. Parent registration committing to either 100% distance education or Blended Learning option (on campus combined with distance education). tbd

Masks

Masks will be required for all students and adults on campus unless there is a medical or behavioral reason that restricts the use of a mask. Please begin having your children use face coverings now. Find a style that is comfortable for your child so they can get used to wearing it throughout the day. Help them to understand why (especially the idea that we are helping to protect others when we wear a mask) and help them to avoid touching the covering and their face. The
district will provide masks; however, we will allow students to bring their own. If a student or adult reports to campus without a mask they will be given one.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

The California Department of Education is providing PPE for students and staff. NCSD will have:

- Disposable Masks for Grades TK through 8
- Cloth Masks for Teachers and Staff
- Disposable Masks for Teachers and Staff
- Thermometers
- Hand Sanitizer
- Plexiglass/tempered glass partitions: Front Offices, Support/Special Education, Teachers if requested

**Social Distancing**

The guideline is 6 feet when at all possible. Teach your child what 6 ft of distance is - have your child mark 6 ft distance lines outside with chalk or use painters tape inside the house to show 6 ft of space on a couch, at the kitchen table, from one chair to another. This 'sense of space’ will help them develop an awareness of appropriate distancing.

**Distance Education**

This will look different than distance learning. Our committees are working on creating the robust structure for this model. For families who choose, 100% distance education will be an option. If you choose distance education, we ask that you commit to the entire year unless restrictions are lifted. Distance education will use the Google Classroom and Google Meet platforms for all TK-8 staff. Teachers will provide instruction by recording lessons to watch at your convenience. Feedback from families indicate that they would like the following:

- They would like to have teachers post work expectations for students daily at the same time. If all teachers are on the same schedule that would be ideal
- Families would like pre-recorded lessons so they can view them on their schedules rather than lessons via online meeting. This would allow students to re-watch a lesson if need be
- Consistency between grades with regards to scheduling & classwork
- Teacher “office hours” online

It is imperative that teachers have access to excellent training in the use of these new tools in order to be successful. We are designing a training delivery system.

**Childcare**

Childcare may be very limited at this time if we are allowed to provide it.
Bussing

Our ability to provide transportation will be severely limited by the social distancing requirement, so fewer children can be on the bus at one time.

Classroom Volunteers

At this time, classroom volunteers will not be permitted.

Symptom Checks

Families will complete a symptom checklist and take their child’s temperature on a daily basis. This is to avoid sick children from entering campus. Temperatures may also be taken when entering the classroom.

Protocols for Sick Students/Staff

[COVID-19 Exposure Guide](https://www.nevadacounty.ca.gov/health) for Schools published by the Nevada County Department of Health.

Campus Modifications

All modifications based upon CDC, State & County Health Guidelines:

- Signage is placed in classrooms with reminders of important health practices.
- Where feasible, classroom doors and windows remain open for fresh air.
- HVAC filters are used throughout the District and filters are routinely changed.
- Staggered protocols are in place to ensure distancing during class breaks.
- Restrooms will be designated to specific grade levels to minimize mixing of cohorts.
- Schools will minimize congregate movement through hallways as much as practicable.
- There will be assigned entry/exit points for students with one way travel in the hallways.
- Non-classroom spaces may be used for instruction, including outdoor campus spaces.
- Lunches will be conducted in multiple campus settings, including classrooms and outdoors and students will remain in their small cohorts.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols

Thorough cleaning in high traffic areas is performed regularly. Commonly used surfaces are frequently disinfected. A specific cleaning schedule will be posted on our district website in our Specific School Site Protection Plan approved by the Nevada County Health Department later this month.

All shared equipment and touchable surfaces are cleaned and sanitized between each use. Students will have their own materials and devices at school to the greatest extent possible. We will limit what children bring to school.

All entrances and exits are equipped with proper sanitation products, including hand sanitizer and/or sanitizing wipes.
Hand washing facilities will be made available and will stay operational and stocked at all times and additional soap, paper towels, and hand sanitizer are supplied when needed.

Hand sanitizer will be provided where indoor plumbing is not readily available.

Sanitizing supplies are provided to promote employees’ personal hygiene. This may include tissues, no-touch trash cans, hand soap, adequate time for hand-washing, alcohol-based hand sanitizers, disinfectants, and disposable towels.

Cleaning products are used that meet the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s- approved for COVID-19 list.

School hours and/or other procedures have been modified to provide adequate time for regular, thorough cleaning, product stocking, or other measures.

Staff is provided adequate time to implement cleaning practices

Current Proposed NCSD Blended Learning Model:

Two-Day Rotation Blended Learning Model: Students 2nd-8th report to school on two designated days for in-person instruction, TK-1st four shortened days (a.m. & p.m. options).

- On the other days, students are engaged in enrichment opportunities aligned with academic goals established by the school through various programs, either on site or with community partners, that are coordinated by school instructional staff.
- This could mean small group instruction for certain student groups.
- Physical education, health, and other content area teachers, as well as administrators and teachers on special assignment, could be included to reduce student–teacher ratios.
- On Wednesdays, all students would be engaged in distance education opportunities and teachers in collaborative planning and/or professional learning opportunities and connecting with distance education students/families.
- 4th-8th would have morning core instruction and afternoon enrichment classes/study hall.
- K-3rd would have a rotation of enrichment classes throughout the week.
  - Potential criteria for prioritizing student need:
    - Special Education
    - English Language Learners
    - Students without internet
    - Students significantly behind grade level (Tier II)
    - Homeless or Foster Youth, or students with any other needs
- Special Education students receive services based on a 4 day a week FAPE offering for GenEd. Could receive services onsite 4 days a week depending on individual needs.

As you all have seen, things can always change at any moment. We will continue to do our best to keep you informed and respond to your needs and concerns.