



# Norse Learning Plan Fall 2020-2021

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North Muskegon Public Schools

***At the end of this document you will find a link requesting your choice of learning model for each child in your family for the start of the 2020/21 School Year. Deadline to make choices is August 13th.***



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## Definitions

**Asynchronous learning** is learning (student and teacher in separate locations) in which the student and teacher are not connected in real time (not live). Asynchronous learning requires students to independently complete tasks and activities. Methods of asynchronous learning include self-guided lesson modules, pre-recorded video content, virtual libraries, posted lecture notes, and exchanges across discussion boards or social media platforms.

**Synchronous learning** is distance learning (student and teacher in separate locations) in which the student and teacher remain in separate locations, but are electronically connected in real time/live. This involves the student and their instructor interacting in a specific virtual place, through a specific online medium, at a specific time.

**Hybrid Model** is a combination of in-person instruction and distance learning.

**Cohorts** are groups of 15 or fewer students that stay together all day in grades DK-12. In grades 2-12, cohorts are Blue (Monday & Tuesday) and Gold (Thursday & Friday). In grades DK, K, & 1 cohorts attend Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. *Efforts will be made to keep students living in the same household in the same cohort unless otherwise requested.*

**Norse Virtual Academy** is our fully virtual school option.

**E-Learning Model** is an entirely virtual school for all students due to a Phase 1, 2, or 3 Status and/or State Mandate or any temporary closure deemed necessary by local officials or school administration. E-Learning is very different from the model of school used in the spring of 2020!

**Social Emotional Learning (SEL)** is the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

***\*\*At the end of this document you will find a link requesting your choice of learning model for each child in your family for the start of the 2020/21 School Year***



## RETURN TO SCHOOL PLANNING

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### Development, Feedback, & Implementation

In July of 2020, NMPS created a Return to Learning Work Group composed of numerous teaching staff, counselors & social workers, support staff, parents, administration, and Board members to gather, prioritize, and expedite information on COVID-19 health and safety guidelines, teaching and learning, and to develop recommendations for reopening schools. The following principles guided the work of the group.

- ☐ Safe learning and working environments for students and staff
- ☐ Social-emotional well-being & academic progress for ALL students
- ☐ High-quality, rigorous instruction
- ☐ Family choice of learning models
- ☐ Compliance with requirements and guidance
- ☐ Clear, consistent and accurate communications

The group was charged with developing specific action plans to address three possible scenarios:

1. Hybrid learning: in-school learning with health and social distancing protocols & distance learning combined
2. Full-time online learning by parent/guardian request
3. E-Learning for all in the case of a required building shutdown

The work group was formed to address several key areas:

- ☐ Health & Safety
- ☐ Personal protective equipment and hygiene
- ☐ Cleaning and disinfecting
- ☐ Spacing, Movement, and Access
- ☐ Social-emotional supports and well-being
- ☐ Teaching and Learning
- ☐ Screening of staff, students, and visitors
- ☐ Protocols for student and staff presenting with COVID-19 symptoms
- ☐ Protocols for responding to COVID-19 positive cases
- ☐ Athletics and extracurricular activities
- ☐ Operations: Technology and Food Service
- ☐ Professional Development and training



## Rationale put forth in this Plan:

- In-person learning is the most effective model for the majority of learners.
- Distance learning can also be an effective form of educating our students.
- The physical safety of our school community is our #1 priority with mental wellbeing #2.
- We are committed to implementing all “required” and “highly recommended” actions in the [Michigan Return to School Roadmap](#), such as physical spacing, mask use, and “cohort” models of student interaction. This has led to the necessity of beginning our school year in a hybrid learning model.
- Parents may choose between online-only and hybrid models of learning.
- Schedules were developed with intentions of keeping students on track to meet Michigan Merit Curriculum and local graduation requirements.
- No in-person classroom will have more than 15 students in it to allow for physical spacing.
- A Hybrid Model, Virtual Model, and an E-Learning model must be prepared for and available as needed based on COVID-19 Threat Level and to meet individual family needs.
- Our youngest learners struggle the most with virtual learning and need more in-person options.
- We will expand our in-person learning options as the regional COVID Threat Level improves.
- While core subject areas remain our academic focus, we also want to provide additional opportunities to our students to learn while balancing a variety of other concerns during these challenging times.



## State of Michigan Guidance

On June 30, Governor Whitmer released the [MI Safe Schools: 2020-2021 Return to School Roadmap](#) and [Executive Order 2020-142](#). The Executive Order and Roadmap outline requirements and guidance on instructional and service delivery for the 2020-21 school year and are aligned to the [MI Safe Start Plan](#). This document is intended to communicate specific components of North Muskegon Public School (NMPS) plans and preparations for reopening schools in August of 2020 and is presented in compliance with Executive Order 2020-142.

Governor Whitmer's Phase Guidance for Michigan Schools was accompanied by comprehensive guidance in the Return to School Roadmap. The state guidance reinforces that Michigan schools are expected to deliver forward instruction to all students in the 2020-21 school year, while recognizing that the format for instructional delivery may shift across the year depending on which phase is assigned to Muskegon County.

The MI Safe Start Plan will continue to be used as the highest-level governing framework for determining if and when it is safe to resume in-person instruction. Within the MI Safe Start Plan, schools are not permitted to provide in-person instruction of any kind if their region is within Phases 1-3 of the pandemic. All schools are permitted to resume in-person instruction beginning in Phase 4 of the MI Safe Start Plan. Some regulations and mandates are removed as COVID-19 public health metrics improve in Phase 5 of the MI Safe Start Plan. All schools will remain open with some lasting safety requirements once community spread is not expected to return during Phase 6 of the MI Safe Start Plan.

Depending on the status of MI Safe Start Plan, there are four scenarios for school opening in fall 2020:

**1. MI Safe Start Phases 1-3:**

*Schools do not open for in-person instruction and instruction is provided remotely*

**2. MI Safe Start Phase 4:**

*Schools open for in-person instruction with more stringent, required safety protocols*

**3. MI Safe Start Phase 5:**

*Schools open for in-person instruction with moderate, required safety protocols*

**4. MI Safe Start Phase 6:**

*Schools open for in-person instruction with minimal, required safety protocols*

With Muskegon County currently in **Phase 4** of the MI Safe Start Plan, NMPS is planning on reopening schools on August 31, 2020, with a Hybrid Learning Model. If our status changes, we will adapt accordingly.



## OVERVIEW OF NMPS LEARNING MODELS

Phase 4: Hybrid (mix of in-person and virtual)			
Discovery Kindergarten	Grades K & 1	Grades 2-10	Grades 11-12
<p><b><u>Schedule:</u></b></p> <p>Students come to school for a half day (AM or PM) four days per week (no in-person on Wednesday)</p>	<p><b><u>Schedule:</u></b></p> <p>Students will come for a slightly shortened “full” school day four days per week (no in-person on Wednesday)</p>	<p><b><u>Schedule:</u></b></p> <p>Students will be in-person two “full” days per week in a set cohort, and virtual the rest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Half of students will be a “Blue” schedule (Monday &amp; Tuesday)</li> <li>• The other half will be “Gold” (Thursday &amp; Friday)</li> </ul> <p>All students will have five courses in-person: math, science, ELA, social studies, and one additional course</p>	<p><b><u>Schedule:</u></b></p> <p>Students will follow the grades 2-10 schedule generally, but because they have such diverse course needs scheduling will be more flexible and potentially include more virtual offerings</p> <p>Cohorting will be practiced but in a more limited way</p>
<p><b><u>Features:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students will be in cohorts &amp; stay together all day in groups of 15 or less; there will be no mixing of cohorts while indoors to the best of our ability</li> <li>• Students wear masks, mask breaks provided with social distancing as feasible</li> <li>• Staff wear masks at all times</li> <li>• Scheduled handwashing will occur regularly multiple times each day</li> <li>• Students eat lunch in their classroom (3rd-hour for MS/HS and elementary when coordinated)</li> <li>• Wednesdays will consist of asynchronous &amp; synchronous learning opportunities, teacher office hours, individualized student attention, professional development, lesson development and deep cleaning of facility</li> <li>• Distance and in-person learning supported through the full version of a Learning Management System</li> <li>• Social/Emotional Learning will be embedded into students’ &amp; staff experiences in all models of instruction</li> </ul>			



Phase 4: Norse Virtual Academy (Entirely Virtual Option, students do not attend school)	
Grades DK-5	Grades 6-12
<p>Students will have a mix of synchronous learning with their grade-level peers and online-only asynchronous learning activities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase flexibility for families</li><li>• Keep students connected to their grade-level peers</li></ul>	<p>Students will be enrolled in the four core subject areas.</p> <p>Students will have the option of a fifth or sixth, non-core course as well.</p> <p>Online classes may be taken using a combination of NM teaching staff using NM Virtual Academy and Michigan Virtual (MIVU)</p>

**Note:** Students must commit to the Norse Virtual Learning option for an entire semester. A student may not move between the Norse Virtual Learning model, the 6-12 hybrid, K-5 cohort, or e-learning models except at the semester.





## GRADES DK-5 HYBRID LEARNING OPTION (Phase 4)

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### Overview

Students are cohorted by their class and do not mix with students from other classes while indoors as much as possible. This learning model most closely mirrors our traditional DK-5 school experience. Students participate in recess, lunch, Specials, and receive pull-out or push-in support services as needed.

### Grades DK-5 Switches/Specials

With very few exceptions, instead of switching to different classrooms the teachers will rotate into each classroom for instruction.

### Uniqueness of Discovery Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and 1st-Grade

In an effort to better meet the developmental and technology needs of our youngest learners, we are able to safely have our hybrid-scheduled students in DK, K, and 1 to come to in-person school four days per week. DK students will come for four half-days per week while Kindergarten and 1st-Grade students will come for four “full” days per week. They will still be in groups of 15 or fewer per class to allow for physical spacing.

### Specials (Music, Art, Physical Education, etc.)

Specials will continue to be part of each child’s school experience. All appropriate safety measures and sanitation will occur. As we are able, NMPS is committed to expanding non-core offerings and activities.

### Lunch and Food Service

Students will eat in their classroom and then play outside for a lunch recess. Students must bring a ready-to-eat sack lunch or pre-order a ready-to-eat lunch from food service. For the safety of all students, all food entering the classroom must follow the guidelines communicated by the teacher regarding food in that classroom.

### Recess

Students play outside during lunch recess and other recess periods. While outside, we will use a plan that promotes social distancing, requires that masks are worn, and reduces shared equipment. Equipment will be regularly sanitized.

### Masks

ALL staff and students will wear masks, except when eating and drinking. This includes wearing masks in hallways and common areas and at arrival, departure, and recess. Students will be provided mask breaks throughout the day as determined by the teacher and when appropriate social distancing can be maintained.



# Discovery Kindergarten (DK) Hybrid Cohort Model Overview (Phase 4)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Blue Group AM DK</b>	In-person school all morning	In-person school all morning	Distance, synchronous and/or asynchronous learning, virtual meetings, and small group instruction.	In-person school all morning	In-person school all morning
<b>Gold Group PM DK</b>	In-person school all afternoon	In-person school all afternoon	Distance, synchronous and/or asynchronous learning, virtual meetings, and small group instruction.	In-person school all afternoon	In-person school all afternoon

# Kindergarten and 1st-Grade Hybrid Cohort Model Overview (Phase 4) (4 days per week)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Entire classes of 15 or fewer students</b>	In-person for a “full” school day	In-person for a “full” school day	Distance, synchronous and/or asynchronous learning, virtual meetings, and small group instruction.	In-person for a “full” school day	In-person for a “full” school day



# Sample 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th-Grade Hybrid Cohort Model Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Blue Group</b> Maximum 15:1 Student/Teacher Ratio	In-person for a “full” school day	In-person for a “full” school day	Distance, synchronous and/or asynchronous learning, virtual meetings, and small group instruction.	Distance, synchronous learning with in-person class	Distance, synchronous learning with in-person class
<b>Gold Group</b> Maximum 15:1 Student/Teacher Ratio	Distance, synchronous learning with in-person class	Distance, synchronous learning with in-person class	Distance, synchronous and/or asynchronous learning, virtual meetings, and small group instruction.	In-person for a “full” school day	In-person for a “full” school day

## Elementary Hybrid In-School Schedule **Sample**

*This schedule serves as the basis for schedules that are to be finalized collaboratively by teacher teams and approved by the administration to ensure coordination among and between grade levels and virtual students. Safety, mental health, developmental considerations, and the learning/curricular needs of students will be at the forefront of the schedules that are developed, implemented, and adjusted as necessary to meet the needs of students.*

<b>DK (AM and PM)</b>  AM Student Arrival (Mills) 8:00am  PM Student Arrival (Mills) 11:30am  Arrival, Check-ins, Purposeful Play: 30 min. Core Instructional Experiences: 30 min. Recess, Snack and Mindfulness: 30 min. Core Instructional Experiences: 20 min. Social/Emotional Learning (SEL): 10 min. Special: 30 min. Check-ins, Recess, and Dismissal: 15 min.  AM Student Dismissal 10:45am  PM Student Dismissal 2:30pm Sanitation and Teacher Lunch 10:45 - 11:30am Teacher Prep 2:30 - 3:10pm	<b>Kindergarten - 5th Grade Students</b>  Student Arrival (Mills and Moulton) 7:45 - 8:00am  Arrival, Check-ins, WINN: 8:00 - 8:30 Reading/ELA: 8:30 - 9:30 Recess, Snack and Mindfulness: 9:30 - 10:00 Math: 10:00 - 11:00 Social/Emotional Learning (SEL): 11:00 - 11:15 Special: 11:15 - 12:00 Check-ins, Lunch (in classroom): 12:00 - 12:30 Lunch Recess (with class): 12:30 - 1:00 Science or Social Studies: 1:00 - 1:30 Check-ins, WINN, and Dismissal: 1:30 - 1:45  Student Dismissal 1:45pm Teacher Lunch/Prep: 1:45pm - 3:10pm
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**\*\* Social Emotional Learning Opportunities will be embedded throughout our daily instruction. Our counselors, social workers and teaching staff will team to prepare and implement these highly valued experiences.**



## GRADES 6-12 HYBRID LEARNING

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### Overview

All students attend school in-person, but not at the same time. Students are clustered into two cohorts - Blue and Gold. Please note, we will do all we can to try and keep families with multiple children on the same schedule. Please watch for a survey to come out soon.

### Grades 6-12 Classroom Switches

With very few exceptions, instead of switching to different classrooms the subject area teachers will rotate into each classroom for instruction. This means that each student will have their own personal desk/learning space and that the majority of a student's in-person day will be spent in one classroom.

### Lunch and Food Service

Students will start the year by eating in their classroom during an extended 3rd-period. Students must bring a ready-to-eat sack lunch or pre-order a ready-to-eat lunch from food service. For the safety of all students, all food entering the classroom must follow the guidelines communicated by the teacher regarding food in that classroom. We will be a closed campus to start our school year.

### Masks

ALL staff and students wear masks, except when eating and drinking. This includes wearing masks in hallways and common areas and at arrival and departure. Students will be provided mask breaks throughout the day as determined by the teacher and when appropriate social distancing can be maintained.



## 6 - 12 Grade Hybrid Learning Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group Blue	In-person for a "full" school day for five class periods	In-person for a "full" school day for five class periods	Distance, asynchronous learning, virtual meetings, and tutoring	Distance, synchronous learning for all five classes	Distance, synchronous learning for all five classes
Group Gold	Distance, synchronous learning for all five classes	Distance, synchronous learning for all five classes	Distance, asynchronous learning, virtual meetings, and tutoring	In-person for a "full" school day for five class periods	In-person for a "full" school day for five class periods

**\*NOTE:** The secondary Hybrid Model is the learning model under which NMPS intends to begin the school year on August 31, 2020. Full in-person instruction at the secondary level will be implemented when health conditions permit. Families will receive ongoing updates and communications related to this determination.

## Middle/High School Schedule

Teacher Lunch/Prep:	7:45am - 9:10am
1st Hour:	9:10 - 10:05 (55 min)
2nd Hour:	10:15 - 11:10 (55 min)
3rd Hour/Student Lunch:	11:20 - 12:35 (75 min)
4th Hour:	12:45 - 1:40 (55 min)
5th Hour:	1:50 - 2:45 (55 min)
Student Dismissal:	2:45pm

\*\* Social Emotional Learning Opportunities will be embedded throughout our daily instruction. Our counselors, social workers and teaching staff will team to prepare and implement these highly valued experiences.

\*\*\*Students will eat lunch in their 3rd hour, the campus will be closed.



## DK-12 NORSE VIRTUAL Academy

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### Overview

The Norse Virtual Academy option is available by request for any family that is more comfortable having their child learn all online rather than in-person or through a hybrid model.

Students must commit to the Norse Virtual Academy option for an entire semester. A student may not move between the Norse Virtual Learning model, the 6-12 hybrid, K-5 cohort, or e-learning models except at the semester.

Those who sign-up for Norse Virtual Learning remain North Muskegon Public School students with the same access to services and activities as traditionally enrolled NMPS students. The Norse Virtual Academy program is currently planned to be taught by our staff and using Michigan Virtual. Each NMPS student will be assigned a mentor who is an NMPS employee who supports the student with technical issues, periodic check-ins, and communications between the district and the course/subject provider and/or teacher. Sign ups for these methods will occur in the link at the end of this document.



## DK-12 E-LEARNING DAYS

If required by Phase 1-3 status and/or State Mandate - or any temporary closure deemed necessary by local officials or school administration

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### Overview

Based on a State and/or local decision about closures as a result of an increase in COVID-19 spread, NMPS is prepared to move a group of students or all students to virtual only instruction, called E-Learning. E-Learning days follow a set schedule of asynchronous and synchronous learning which is delivered by each student's assigned NMPS teacher(s).

### Comparison to last Spring's Continuity of Learning Plan

Distance learning this fall will be much different that it was in the spring! During the spring and summer months we researched, networked with other districts, and gathered feedback from all stakeholders regarding our spring 2020 Continuity of Learning Plan (CLP) and best practices in learning and delivering instruction remotely. We set aside the CLP and developed a new framework, called E-Learning, that incorporates newly gained insights, feedback, and data from our experiences in the spring of 2020.

#### Continuity of Learning Plan (From Spring 2020)

#### DK-12 E-Learning Days (If needed 2020-2021)

Participation Option	Participation Required
Mainly Asynchronous	Blend of Synchronous and Asynchronous
Low Accountability	Increased Accountability through Attendance, Grading, & Schedule
High Degree of Flexibility	Set Schedule & more Structure
Multiple Communications, links, and Platforms	Single Learning Management System for delivery of Instruction, Assignments, & Communications
Limited Assessment & Feedback	Ongoing Assessment & Qualitative Feedback



## DK-12 E-Learning Days

Students follow their normal school day schedule, just at home. During the first part of each class period teachers conduct synchronous instructional sessions for the first 25 minutes. During the latter part of the class period, students participate in application or work time. Teachers are available to support students during this time period.

Attendance is required, recorded, and monitored on E-Learning days. Student work is assessed in a timely manner and constructive qualitative and quantitative feedback is given by the teacher. Grades and report cards are issued.

E-Learning will occur five days per week.

## Elementary E-Learning Schedule (Monday - Friday)

### SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Timeframe	Learning Activity	Synchronous (S) Asynchronous (A)
8:00 - 8:30	Arrival, Check-ins, and WINN	S
8:30 - 9:30	Reading/ELA	S/A
9:30 - 10:00	Recess, Snack, and Mindfulness	S/A
10:00 - 11:00	Math	S/A
11:00 - 11:15	Social/Emotional Learning (SEL)	S
11:15 - 12:00	Special	S/A
12:00 - 1:00	Check-ins, Lunch, Lunch Recess (Teacher Lunch: 12:15 - 1:00)	S/A
1:00 - 1:30	Science or Social Studies	S/A
1:30 - 1:45	Check-ins, WINN, and Dismissal	S
1:45 - 2:30	<i>Optional for the Student: Teacher Office Hours and/or Small Group Opportunities</i>	S

Teacher Prep: 2:30pm - 3:10pm

*\*Student work time during "Synchronous/Asynchronous" instruction includes a combination of small group instruction with the teacher and independent work.*





## MS/HS E-Learning Sample Schedule (Monday - Friday)

<b><i>Period**</i></b>	<b><i>Time</i></b>
<i>Teacher Lunch/Prep</i>	<i>7:45 AM - 9:10</i>
1st Hour	9:10 - 10:05*
2nd Hour	10:15 - 11:10*
3rd Hour/Student Lunch	11:20 - 12:25*
4th Hour	12:35 - 1:35*
5th Hour	1:45 - 2:45*
Student Dismissal	2:45 PM

*\*Student work time during “Synchronous/Asynchronous” instruction includes a combination of small group instruction with the teacher and independent work.*

*\*\* Social Emotional Learning Opportunities will be embedded throughout our daily instruction. Our counselors, social workers and teaching staff will team to prepare and implement these highly valued experiences.*



# Orientation Week

August 31 - September 3 (Orientation Week)

## Student Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A.M.	Blue Cohort Orientations* 8:15 - 11:30	Blue Cohort Orientations* 8:15 - 11:30	Gold Cohort Orientations* 8:15 - 11:30	Gold Cohort Orientations* 8:15 - 11:30	No School for Students or Staff
P.M.	No School for Students	No School for Students <i>Staff Planning</i>	No School for Students <i>Staff Planning</i>	No School for Students <i>Staff Planning</i>	

\*Orientation for Hybrid students will be in-person and Norse Virtual students will take place virtually.

\*\*Attendance at orientation is required.



## SPECIAL POPULATIONS

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North Muskegon Public Schools continues to recognize that supporting the whole child is imperative to student growth and learning. Through the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), NMPS will continue to implement programs and interventions to address the academic, behavioral, and wellness needs of our students. Whether a student is receiving synchronous and asynchronous instruction, in-school or online, academic support through whole-group and small-group instruction (Tier 1) will be provided. If needed, students will receive more intensive small group or individual student intervention (Tiers 2 and 3). Schools will leverage resources and tools for systematic data collection, ongoing progress monitoring, and timely intervention. Support staff and resource teachers, including school counselors, psychologists, and social workers, will work flexibly across the school to address student needs.

Students with disabilities, students with Section 504 plans, and English Language Learners will be given special consideration to ensure appropriate instruction while complying with federal and state requirements.

### Students with Disabilities

Special education services for students with disabilities will include increased time for synchronous instruction and explicit expectations for greater student engagement and consistency. Instructional delivery will be designed to ensure the least restrictive environment (LRE) as required by the individualized education program (IEP). Based on the student's IEP, specialized instruction will be provided in-person, when possible. Students will continue to receive access to instructional materials for use at home, as needed, including assistive technology tools. When necessary and possible, virtual meetings will be used to convene special education procedural meetings, such as reevaluation, eligibility, IEP teams, etc. Students opting into Norse Virtual Learning will continue to receive their special education services from NMPS.

### Students with Section 504 & Medical/Health Plans

In synchronous and asynchronous learning settings, students eligible for Section 504 plans will continue receiving their accommodations and other supports needed including additional time for synchronous, small group or individual instruction. Students will continue to receive access to instructional materials for use at home, as needed. When necessary and possible, virtual meetings will be utilized to convene Section 504 procedural meetings such as reevaluation, eligibility, review, etc. The school will continue to support students with specific medical/health plans.



## Elementary Reading Intervention

Based on literacy assessment data, intervention services for students reading below grade level expectations will be provided during in-person and E-Learning structures. This will include additional time for synchronous, small group or individual instruction. Students will continue to receive access to instructional materials for use at home, as needed, including appropriately leveled text. When necessary and possible, virtual meetings will be utilized for initial and follow-up Reading Growth Plan meetings. Students opting into Norse Virtual Learning will not receive Reading Intervention services through NMPS.



## HEALTH & SAFETY

NMPS is committed to the safety of our school community. We have embraced all requirements and highly recommended items in the [Michigan Return to School Roadmap](#).

- Please follow this link to our plan submitted to the State of Michigan.  
[North Muskegon Safety Response Plan](#)
- Please follow this link to frequently asked questions pertaining to common concerns for teachers and school administrators about how to handle COVID-19 related issues for students and staff:  
[Parents, Students, and Staff FAQ](#)
- Link to Muskegon County's Health Department's Screening Process, Procedures and Scenario Breakdowns [Muskegon County's Health Department Procedures](#)

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## Other Considerations

### Food Service

Food service operations will continue to be designed to ensure compliance and adherence to all required safety protocols under the MI Safe Start Phase and MI Safe Return to School Roadmap.

### Transportation

To begin the 2020 school year, NMPS will not be able to provide bus transportation. All students will need to be dropped off and picked-up to and from school, bikes permitted. This is due to our focus on safety and attempting to keep our students in their cohorts as much as possible.

### Athletics

Athletics and extracurricular activities support the goal of providing a well-rounded educational experience for students within the reopening process.

NMPS will follow all executive orders and CDC and Muskegon County Health Department guidance for physical and social distancing, restricting the size of gatherings for indoor and outdoor spaces, cleaning and disinfecting equipment, and other health and safety precautions. Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) guidance will be applied.

### Clubs & Extra-Curricular Activities

Clubs and extracurricular activities support the goal of providing a well-rounded educational experience for students. Clubs and extracurricular may operate in compliance with the Norse Learning Plan, executive orders, and the MI Safe Return to School Roadmap.

### Band, Choir, Orchestra, Physical Education

These courses present unique considerations given the nature of the activity and larger class sizes. These courses will not be available to start our school year. We are hopeful to regain these experiences as soon as it is safe to do so.



## Gathering Size Limitations

While in Phase 4 of the MI Safe Start Plan, the Return to School Roadmap suspends large scale indoor gatherings and limits large scale outdoor gatherings to less than 100 people. Small scale indoor activities and all outdoor events require masks and social distancing for spectators.

## Meetings, Events, & Gatherings at District Facilities

PTO, Booster, and other meetings and events typically hosted in our school building are suspended. We encourage those groups to meet virtually to the extent possible. Meetings related to special education and specific student/family needs may continue to meet in the school buildings.

## Visitors to School Buildings

Visitors to the schools are restricted unless specific visitation is approved by building administration. After being visually identified, all visitors must answer COVID-19 screening questions and wear a protective mask to be granted access.

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## Closing and Sign-Up

We want to thank all those that assisted in preparing this document! We are hopeful it assisted in answering questions that you and your family may have had relative to our plan to start the Fall Semester of the 2020/21 School Year. We thank our full NM School Community for their patience and support through this process. We assure Norse Nation we will do all we can to provide our students the BEST learning opportunity possible no matter our Phase Status. We will continue to depend on our full school community to do their part in supporting our efforts for student success. Please reach out at any time with questions, concerns, and input. Thank you!!!

**[LINK to LEARNING MODEL SIGN-UPS](#) to start the 2020/21 School Year. *Please complete once for each of your children!***

***THIS LINK CLOSSES ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, AT 10:00 PM!***