



Hello Norse Nation!

As you know, today ends our 1st Semester and Monday we will begin our 2nd Semester. As always, the school year seems to be flying along - even during this wild and crazy year! On behalf of our full Norsemen School Staff, we would like to say "THANK YOU!" for all of the support our community has shown through this difficult school year and "THANK YOU!" for doing your part to foster the school/family partnership!

This message is being sent with some very exciting news. It has been our intent to promote decisions that foster Physical Health, Mental Wellbeing, and Academic Growth for our school community. As has been stated many times - our intention all along has been to gradually move to an increased level of face-to-face learning. I am proud of the moves we have made as a school community. And, I am extremely excited to share the following timeline depicting the combining of our Blue and Gold Cohorts (current Virtual students will stay the course with their Virtual classes). Please see details below:

Monday, January 25	2nd Semester Starts
Monday, February 8	Blue Cohort in-person
Tuesday, February 9	Gold Cohort in-person
Wednesday, February 10	Remote Learning Wednesday
Thursday, February 11	Staff PD - Students do not report
February 12 - 15	Mid-Winter Break
Tuesday, February 16	Elementary Combine Cohorts M/T/Th/F - Remote Wednesdays (Wednesdays will continue to assist us in supporting teacher preparation for virtual and face-to-face learners, small group activities, individual learner support, mental health supports, and all other activities currently being provided on these days.)
Monday, March 1	MS/HS Combine Cohorts M/T/Th/F - Remote Wednesdays

Obviously, this is dependent on our community health continuing to trend in a positive direction. We will continue to track our county data, hospital capacity data, local health data, NM health data, and our school health data. If things trend in a poor direction, we will act accordingly up to and including the use of Remote Learning.

The following are in place and will stay in place to assist us in continuing our move to a more normal learning environment:

1. Masks are required by all
2. Hand washing and sanitizing will be required on a regular/consistent basis
3. The district will continue to maintain "cohorting" practices for all grade levels and staying in a single classroom

4. Students will be distanced to the maximum space available dependent upon classroom (class sizes are reduced due to approximately 10% of students engaging in virtual learning)
5. Our new Air Filtration System is fully operational (cycles new air every 8-15 minutes throughout the full building)
6. Our District Covid Contact Tracer (funded by the health department) is in place and has proven to be a very effective partnership
7. Our partnership with Baker College and Ferris State University student nurses is still in place
8. Staff will have had access to at least the first round of COVID-19 vaccinations and typically both by the planned expansion dates
9. Parents are required to keep students home when showing symptoms and/or after exposure with a covid contact
10. Parents are required to communicate with the school office of any change in health status of any of their children
11. Illness at School: Students who present as ill at school will be required to go home. This includes (but is not limited to) a tummy ache, sore throat, fever, etc. - Parents or emergency contacts are required to pick their child up from school within 30 minutes if they present as ill.

This is an exciting message to send! You have our commitment to continue working with our full school community as we continue forward!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Dr. Curt Babcock
Superintendent