



Hello Norse Nation!

I hope this communication finds you and your loved ones doing well and enjoying the start of our school year! I am extremely proud of our full school community for all doing their part in creating a successful kick off. While not a normal start - an overall successful one!

As you know, our original plan allowed for a start to the school year that provided our families choices. It also was intended to provide us a solid chance at expanding our programming as safety, staffing, and opportunity arose. Well - we are about to start this part of our journey! This communication will address a start to our gradual expanding of programs - it is a start to what we hope to be able to continue building upon. We will NOT deviate from our position of valuing Physical Safety, Mental Wellbeing, and Academic Preparation as the driving forces of our move forward. Please do your part in keeping our community healthy physically, mentally, and academically!

The following explains areas to be addressed in the next couple weeks:

Instruction:

- 1. We have altered our calendar to address a better balance between the Blue and Gold Cohorts, address consistency with Parent/Teacher Conferences and the end of our first semester. The link to our revised calendar is [here](#) and is also available on our webpage. Please watch for more detailed communication from the school offices.**
- 2. Starting the week of October 12th, Elementary Virtual Academy students will have the option to move into a Hybrid Cohort where space is available (at this point, no cohort will go above 15 students) - more detail relative to grades impacted and the process for this option will be coming from the Elementary Office very soon.**
- 3. Starting October 28th, at the MS/HS, we will begin to utilize Wednesdays as “in-person school days” for our students. More detail will be out soon from the MS/HS offices with regard to how this will be scheduled.**

Extra Curricular (No more than 15 students at a time, masks required, and distancing required):

1. Starting the week of October 5th, Choir and Orchestra will begin opportunities for MS/HS students outside of our school day. Detailed information will be out very soon!
2. Starting the week of October 5th, existing clubs will be able to utilize school facilities outside school hours.

Athletic:

1. The newest Executive Order provides increased facility capacity options. Our conference is looking into the potential impacts of this. We are actively involved with this planning/process. New information should be available very soon and will be shared immediately.
2. We will extend the use of gyms and fitness areas to include off-season athletes but limited to MHSAA guidelines (i.e., no more than 4 athletes at a time).
3. Maintain “No Open Gyms/Camps”
4. Maintain “No Outside Groups”

Other Activities:

1. Homecoming (10/16): We WILL have Homecoming and plans are being finalized very soon. It will look different (what doesn't, eh?!), but we will have Homecoming.
2. Halloween: Plans are being developed and will be shared soon. Hint... one option being looked at for the Senior Walk will be to utilize Walker Park sidewalk and invite elementary students and their parents/guardians back at 2:30pm to watch safely and socially distanced. Please note that supervision for elementary students is the responsibility of parents/guardians as this event is outside of the elementary school day.

Again, this is a start to what I hope are more communications presenting further expansion of programming. Thank you for your support, flexibility, patience and **NORSE PRIDE!**

Take care,

Dr. Babcock