



To: NRSD Families and Faculty

From: Brooke Clenchy, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Todd Maguire, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Date: July 7, 2020

Re: Reopening Memo (2)

Dear Nashoba Families and Faculty:

This is an update to the memo we sent out on June 25, 2020 regarding the new 2020-2021 school year and re-opening. At this time NRSD is continuing to plan for the strong possibility of a full return to school, for staff and students to attend onsite, with all appropriate safety precautions in place.

As we had mentioned in our previous memo, current medical research cited in the recently released Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) documents support a safe in-person return to school. This documentation can be found [here](#).

Massachusetts School Districts are expected to develop three separate education models for submission to the DESE prior to the start of the new school year. These plans are due in August and we are awaiting templates from the state regarding specific expectations. Our leadership teams have begun initial work to create plans for 1) a return to full in-person instruction with safety precautions 2) a full remote learning plan and 3) a plan for hybrid learning that combines in-person and remote learning on an alternating schedule. Based upon the current medical situation, the expectation today is that students will return to full in-person instruction in September, however, that could be subject to change based upon the medical situation within our state as the new school year draws closer. We have been told by the state that we need to remain “nimble” and prepared to pivot between plans depending on data and state guidance as we continue our planning through the month of August.

Immediately after we received the initial DESE guidance, we measured each classroom within the school district and reconfigured the spaces to ensure that we could safely place student desks at the appropriately prescribed three foot distance, and provide the appropriate teacher distance. All schools are able to do that once certain articles of furniture, some bookshelves, etc. have been removed, which will occur later this month. We may have to find some additional space at NRHS, and that has yet to be determined as they continue to build their new schedule.

A key to developing all of these plans is to move to a five day cycle across the district. Our district leadership has been working diligently with all schools to find a successful way to move to that, and ensure calibration across the district. Currently our middle and elementary schools are on a 6 day cycle, and the high school is on an 8 day cycle. This change in cycle will be a shift for our schools on multiple layers. As we build a hybrid plan, however, the 5 day cycle is critical. This will allow, for example, better consistency for our parents and students, particularly for child care purposes, should we find ourselves in the hybrid model at some point in time this year. This also ties in with keeping the same staff and students in the building, for example, during a given time period and will further support our custodial staff who will have to do full disinfections of all buildings each weekend.

A list of suggested Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was circulated to school districts in late June. Our Central Office team has placed a substantial order hoping to have all items within the district prior to the beginning of the new school year. Some items, understandably, are particularly difficult to get at this time, but our staff members continue to do their best to secure what we need.

We recently circulated a survey similar to those that have been distributed in other school districts across Massachusetts seeking valuable input from our parents and faculty members. Thank you to those of you who found time to fill it out. Our leadership team will begin to comb through those results this week. We expect that much of what is in the survey feedback will help to guide next steps.

We have presented our NRSD School Committee with a strategic plan of our layered teams who will be working on specific components for our return to school. Those charts can be found [here](#). The various teams, with specific charges, will begin their work next week. We have diligently worked to ensure that each group's work does not overlap with another and that the workload is shared appropriately across the board. We are striving to work wisely, thoughtfully, efficiently and collaboratively. Our time is short to accomplish what needs to be completed.

If the current positive Massachusetts public health metrics hold, we believe that by following critical health guidelines, we can safely return to in-person school this fall with plans in place to protect all members of our educational community. We can mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 for in-person school programs and prevent the significant consequences of keeping students out of school and isolated. It will take all of us working together to ensure success.

We also respect the data that the state uses to drive all decisions, and we recognize that changes to our efforts could occur at any time.

We will continue to update you throughout the summer as our planning continues.

Yours in partnership,



Brooke Clenchy
Superintendent of Schools



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