



To: NRSD Families and Faculty

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

Date: September 4, 2020

Re: Reopening Memo (6)

Dear Families and Faculty,

Welcome Back!

We are pleased and excited to report that all of our district staff began our new year on Monday for our first district day of school opening and professional development.

We have built two weeks of professional development, safety training and health awareness to prepare our Nashoba faculty and staff for a safe return to school with students on September 16, 2020. Our first day back included staff recognition, a broad overview of the next several weeks and expectations, an annual address by the Superintendent of Schools, and site based activities for all staff.

Individual school cohorts were recently sent to our families. Our on-site, hybrid sections are completely filled, with few exceptions. Any additional move-in students to our communities will be placed in the remote programs to start their year. The classrooms have been measured and configured precisely in a manner that safely, socially distances students from each other and their teachers. The classrooms now have individual “caps” regarding the number of students that can be fit into rooms, and each classroom is a bit different. The cohorts were designed in a manner that will allow for safe bus transportation for those students traveling via bus. Detailed bus information will be released next week with guidance specifically for students. We also anticipate that route organization will be completed next week by the bus company in consultation with NRSD staff. Routes will be published late next week.

We are continuing to fill teacher and instructional aide positions well into this weekend, and we anticipate the process may go into the early part of next week. We anticipate full staff rosters for September 16, 2020.

The School Committee recently accepted an athletic plan proposed by Athletic Director, Tania Rich. It is important to note that the athletic component of NRSD will be extraordinarily limited this

year. There are four shortened athletic seasons that will run, with a newly reduced user fee in place. There will not be any middle school athletic programs this season, and only very limited JV and Varsity at the high school level. The sports have been dramatically modified and fan participation is incredibly limited. Please look on the NRSD website for further information under the athletics tab at NRHS. All of this could change, depending on the trajectory of the pandemic.

NRSD elementary school Principals will be sending out a memo specific to Kindergarten this weekend with a brief explanation of an anticipated, abbreviated orientation process. That memo will be going to Kindergarten parents only.

We are encouraging creative and innovative ideas for potential student extra-curricular activities where possible across the district throughout the year. As these are approved and are able to be rolled out, principals will keep students and parents apprised.

We continue to recognize the needs of students and families as they relate to devices needed for both remote and hybrid learning. As a district team, we remain committed to making sure students and families have access to technological help, particularly for those without a device at home. Through grant funding, we continue to work to secure enough devices to equip all of our grade 3-5 students with a district issued chromebook by mid-fall. Due to the backlog of needed devices across the country, some of these orders have been delayed. We intend to enhance our 1:1 model and equip all students in grades 3-12 with a district issued device and provide the essential learning models on proper use and care as we transition to a new school year this fall.

A reminder that any family in grades K through 5 who does not have access to a device at home can receive a loaner device from the district. More specific information will be forthcoming next week.

A mask policy was recently adopted by the NRSD School Committee, which can be found [here](#). Please ensure that you have read it and feel free to call your school should you have any additional questions.

Student supply lists were sent out in the late spring, however some schools will be sending out, or have recently sent out, edited versions to our parents. Staff are making, or have made, minimal adjustments to these.

Remote Learning Academy students will be receiving additional information next week regarding next steps for them. For the most part, elementary remote learning teachers will be operating from within the elementary buildings district wide. The NRSD middle school Remote Learning Academy (RLA) teachers are expected to be housed at NRHS for convenience purposes to keep them connected for planning and calibration of their efforts.

The individual NRSD schools will continue to do outreach via email to parents and virtually as we move into the new school year and beyond. Each community will implement what it feels is the best approach for its specific community.

We need to make adjustments to our school calendar, which will be presented to our school committee next week. Once approved, we will send out the newly revised calendar to our entire district.

Ann Marie Stoica, Director of Human Resources • Rob Frieswick, Director of Facilities  
Joan DeAngelis, Director of Pupil Personnel Services • Tania Rich, Director of Athletics  
Patricia Marone, Business and Operations Manager

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We have taken multiple measures throughout the summer to ensure the safest teaching and learning environment possible, and if you have followed our recent school committee meetings and our facility presentations, you understand the great extent that we have gone to since March to prepare for this. The buildings feel safe and comfortable.

As we move into this school year, we would like to take a moment to extend a note of thanks to our various task force groups who diligently worked throughout the summer at the district and school levels. We are grateful to have had so many parents and teachers work collectively to support our efforts.

These are challenging times and so much continues to unfold for all of us. We need the ongoing support of everyone in our communities if we are to be successful moving forward. We know that we have polarized viewpoints across our country and within our school district that we are mindful and respectful of. However, we all share common goals - to stay healthy and to educate our children in thoughtful and engaging ways.

We referred to the song "Be A Light" on Monday during our opening remarks. It stresses the need for positivity and hope, and states that we can find this in dark times - that we can be a light. (One of our students recently prepared a fan video of this song that we will share in part at our next school committee meeting.) We know that we can all be a light as we start this year.

We are ready - "see" you on September 16th!

Yours in partnership,



Brooke Clenchy  
Superintendent of Schools



Dr. Todd Maguire  
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

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