NESHANNOCK TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

REOPENING 2020

LEARNING OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

PARENT RESPONSE REQUIRED

Deadline: August 12

Please visit NTSD.org to access the digital form in order to submit the learning option selection for your student(s) by August 12.

Parents and caregivers will need to submit the form <u>one time for each student</u> in their household.

REOPENING: A COLLABORATIVE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Three focus groups – comprised of administrators, teachers, medical professionals, and parents – were dedicated to creating a safe reopening plan for Neshannock Township School District. Health and safety guidelines provided by the CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and Pennsylvania Department of Education have guided all decisions for our finalized reopening plans. Plans were constantly evolving as the committees actively examined every detail while also trying to anticipate factors beyond the control of the District. In addition to preparing the physical space, we also continued to prepare the virtual learning environment for our learners who are not comfortable returning to the brick and mortar setting.

The learning options presented within this document are the result of months of dedicated analyzing, revising, and planning. In the face of uncertainty, the committees feel confident that these are the best possible options for the staff, students, and families of Neshannock Township School District at this time.

Our first day of school will be Tuesday, September 8. Given Lawrence County remains In the green phase, these options will be in effect through October 30. The committees will continue meeting to discuss possible revisions and/or extensions throughout the first quarter. Any such revisions and/or extensions of the learning options will be announced by October 9, 2020.

NESHANNOCK JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Grades 7-12 Learning Options

OPTION 1
Hybrid Instruction

All students in Grades 7-12 have the option of receiving instruction through a hybrid learning option. For this option, students will receive both in-person and virtual instruction, using Neshannock's Schoology platform, in an alternating, every other day schedule. Students enrolling in Option 1 will be divided into two groups by the first initial of the student's last name. Students will be notified of their assigned day after all parent responses have been received. Please see the graphic on the following page for a better understanding of the alternating schedule.

We are encouraging parents and caregivers -- now more than ever -- to keep students home who are not feeling well. The virtual instruction extensions of the in-person classrooms will allow absent students to easily stay connected.

Parents and caregivers of students with an IEP or 504 Plan are encouraged to contact Mrs. Staci Norris, Director of Special Education, to discuss the needs of your student and the reopening plan.

Mrs. Staci Norris
snorris@ntsd.org
724-658-4793, ext. 5106

OPTION 2
Virtual Instruction

All students in Grades 7-12 have the option of receiving instruction through virtual classroom extension. This free, enhanced online learning option will allow students to experience school through a virtual learning environment. Schoology, an online learning management system, will be utilized as the virtual instruction platform, which will allow Neshannock teachers to deliver Neshannock curriculum at the same pace as our hybrid instruction. Students enrolled in the virtual option will not need to report to the building for instruction; however, they are still able to participate in school-sponsored athletics and marching band. Should our online learners decide to switch to hybrid instruction later in the school year, the transition will be rather seamless as the coursework will mirror that of their peers already enrolled in the hybrid learning option.

We respectfully request that a minimum commitment of one quarter (first nine weeks) be made on behalf of students enrolling in the virtual option. A full-year option is also available for interested students and families through Neshannock Online Campus.

Online Program Contact:
724-658-5513 ext. 5120

Facility Upgrades:

- Installation of automated handwashing stations. These fully automated handwashing systems are clinically proven to remove more than 99.9% of harmful pathogens from hands in 12 seconds using 75% less water than a traditional sink.
- Installation of walk-through, touch-free body temperature scan systems at entrances
- Placement of additional freestanding hand sanitizer stations throughout high-traffic areas
- Installation of new sinks, touch-free faucets, and touch-free hand towel dispensers in all bathrooms
- Placement of plexi-glass dividers in shared work spaces
- Removal of existing water fountains and installation of touchless, bottle-filler drink stations throughout the building
- Additional custodial staff hired for ongoing cleaning and sanitizing

INTERNET ACCESS

If you are currently without internet access, please contact Mr. Chris Ferry at 724-856-4630 for assistance.

NESHANNOCK JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

HYBRID LEARNING

OPTION 1: A COMBINATION OF IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION

SEPTEMBER 4-WEEK CALENDAR

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Week 1	7 LABOR DAY NO SCHOOL	8 Group A: Online Group B: In-Person	9 Group A: In-Person Group B: Online	10 Group A: Online Group B: In-Person	11 Group A: In-Person Group B: Online
Week 2	14 Group A: Online Group B: In-Person	15 Group A: In-Person Group B: Online	16 Group A: Online Group B: In-Person	17 Group A: In-Person Group B: Online	18 Group A: Online Group B: In-Person
Week 3	21 Group A: In-Person Group B: Online	22 Group A: Online Group B: In-Person	23 Group A: In-Person Group B: Online	24 Group A: Online Group B: In-Person	25 Group A: In-Person Group B: Online
Week 4	28 Group A: Online Group B: In-Person	29 Group A: In-Person Group B: Online	30 Group A: Online Group B: In-Person	OCT 1 Group A: In-Person Group B: Online	OCT 2 Group A: Online Group B: In-Person

NESHANNOCK JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH DAILY SCHEDULE

9:53AM - 2:53PM

GROUP A:
TO BE DETERMINED

GROUP B:
TO BE DETERMINED

Students will receive group assignments closer to the start of school.

Groups will alternate between in-person and online instruction each week. For instance, while Group A is receiving in-person instruction on campus, Group B is participating in instruction and/or activities via Schoology, our virtual instruction platform, and vice versa. In a typical two-week period, students will receive five days of in-person instruction and five days of virtual instruction.

Students only report to the building on their scheduled "in-person instruction" days. On scheduled "online instruction" days, students are expected to log in to their virtual instruction extensions and participate accordingly. Student expectations for online learning will be clearly established by all Jr./Sr. High School teachers.

Given Lawrence County remains in the green phase, **this schedule will be in effect September 8 - October 30, 2020.** The committees will continue to discuss possible revisions and/or extensions throughout the first quarter. Any such revisions and/or extensions of the learning options will be announced by October 9, 2020.

NESHANNOCK JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

GENERAL PROCEDURES

Health and Safety Procedures for the First Quarter of In-Person Instruction

- **Student Arrival:**
  - Bus riders will enter the building at the Central Office rear entrance.
  - Student drivers and drop-offs will enter the building at the high school lobby entrance.
  - All students (and staff) will walk through the touch-free temperature scan systems upon entry. Students with a temperature above 100.4 will report to a specified isolation area and immediately be evaluated by the nurse. Faculty and staff with a temperature above 100.4 will leave campus immediately.
  - Although students do not need to be present until 9:53am, students may arrive as early as 8:00am if needed. Early students will report to a supervised study hall until it is time to report to first period.
- **Student Dismissal:**
  - Students will be released from Period 9 in stages to avoid locker congestion.
  - Bus riders will be released immediately. Student drivers and riders will be released after busses are loaded.
  - Jr./Sr. High students will be able to stay for Period 10 as needed; however, they will be responsible for their own transportation home from school.
- **District Transportation:**
  - Students will be given assigned seats and spaced accordingly. Masks are required on all busses. Per your responses (due by August 12), the District will follow your transportation requests; however, alternative arrangements may be accommodated with a minimum of 24-hour notice.
  - Students will receive their bus assignments in the mail closer to the start of school.
  - Transportation Department: 724-654-2650
- **School Visitors:**
  - No visitors will be permitted in the building unless scheduled for an appointment.
  - Visitors will be required to wear a mask, to take temperature, and to sign the register.
- **Classroom Layouts:**
  - Classrooms will be filled at 50% capacity.
  - Desks will be facing the same direction and spaced accordingly.
- **Lunch:**
  - Students who are eating a school lunch will eat in the cafeteria. Students will be physically spaced accordingly.
  - Students who are bringing a packed lunch will eat in the gymnasium. Seating will be provided and spaced accordingly.
  - Both locations will be appropriately monitored. No food or drink is to be shared.
- **Common Areas and Hallways:**
  - Students will utilize one staircase for going upstairs only and another staircase for going downstairs only.
  - Students will walk on the right side of the hallway. Hallways will be directional where possible. Signage will be on display.
  - Students will wear masks in common areas, hallways, and any areas where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- **Cleaning and Disinfecting Enhancements:**
  - Additional custodians have been added to the maintenance department. In addition to previous cleaning/sanitizing routines, one custodian will be solely dedicated to maintaining the cleanliness and supplies in all restrooms.
  - High-traffic areas will be continually monitored and sanitized throughout the school day, in addition to daily cleaning and sanitizing of the building interior.

NESHANNOCK TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

HEALTH ROOM PROCEDURES

School Nurses

Mrs. Julie Morrone
Grades 7-12
jmorrone@ntsd.org

Mrs. Sarah Bender
Mrs. Jessica Kissick
Grades K-6
elementarynurse@ntsd.org

WE ARE ENCOURAGING PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS, NOW MORE THAN EVER, TO KEEP STUDENTS HOME WHO ARE NOT FEELING WELL. THERE WILL BE A VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION EXTENSION FOR STUDENTS IN ALL GRADE LEVELS. ABSENT STUDENTS MAY LOG IN AND ACCESS THE LESSONS AND MATERIALS EACH DAY THEY ARE OUT OF THE BUILDING.

General Procedures:

- Teachers will be given items such as sanitizer and first-aid supplies to manage small needs within the classroom.
- In order to reduce congestion and to promote social distancing in the health room, teachers will call before sending students to the health room.
- When a student is presenting suspected COVID-19 symptoms in the classroom, the following protocol will be followed:
  - The teacher will call the school nurse.
  - The student will be instructed to wear a mask and to bring all belongings to the health room.
  - The nurse will bring the student directly to the isolation room. The nurse will perform appropriate health history, physical assessment, and documentation.
  - The nurse will notify the parent/ guardian to pick up the student.
  - The parent/ guardian will be instructed to follow up with the appropriate healthcare provider for evaluation.

Quarantine: Neshannock Township School District will follow the recommendations provided by the CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Health.

- When a student tests positive for COVID-19, the student will quarantine at home until all of the following criteria are met:
- At least 10 days from the onset of symptoms AND
- Fever free for 24 hours without the use of anti-fever medications AND
- Symptoms are improving
- When a student has tested positive for COVID-19 or has been exposed to COVID-19, the school nurse will contact the student's parents/ guardians with specific directions and guidance.

Contact Tracing: In the event that students have been exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 case, NTSD will cooperate with the PA Department of Health as they conduct all contact tracing procedures.

At-Home Health Screening Tool for Students

Now more than ever, it is important to keep your child home when he/she does not feel well. Please review this screening tool before school every morning for each school-aged child residing in your home. If your child is experiencing any of the following symptoms or you answer yes to any of the following questions, please keep your child home.

Is your child experiencing any of the following?

- Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of headache, especially with a fever
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Runny nose and/or congestion
- Fever-like symptoms such as body aches, chills, and/or sweating
- Any complaint of feeling unwell
- Has your child taken any cold/cough medicines and/or fever reducers (such as Tylenol or ibuprofen) today?

Has your child had a recent, potential exposure?

- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19?
- Traveled by air or traveled out of the state in the past 14 days?
- If yes, please contact the school before returning to the school campus.

If students are experiencing sudden or severe symptoms, please seek immediate medical attention.

NESHANNOCK TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

LUNCH DELIVERY

724-714-1261

Please call by 10:00am, Monday-Friday, to make food delivery arrangements.

Eligible* Neshannock students are welcome to participate in the free lunch program during the 2020-2021 school year.

In order to receive a delivered lunch:

- Students in Grades K-6 must be enrolled in virtual instruction.
- Students in Grades 7-12 must be enrolled in virtual instruction or enrolled in hybrid instruction.
- Students in Grades 7-12 enrolled in hybrid instruction may request a delivered lunch on their off-campus instructional days.
- All eligible students requesting lunch delivery for the duration of the first quarter must contact 724-714-1261 by 10:00am on Friday, September 4th.

**Eligible students are those who qualify for free and reduced lunch. To learn more or to find out if your student(s) qualifies, please contact Mr. Chris Ferry at 724-856-4630 or cferry@ntsd.org - Thank you.*

NESHANNOCK TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

REOPENING 2020

TRANSPORTATION AND LEARNING OPTION SELECTION

Parent Response Required

Please visit NTSD.org to access the digital form in order to submit the learning option selection for your student(s) by August 12.

Parents and caregivers will need to submit the form <u>one time for each student</u> in their household.

Neshannock Township School District knows and understands that selecting a learning option for your student(s) for the first quarter may be a difficult decision. Many of our faculty, staff, and board members are facing the same difficult decision-making process.

Whether you choose online, in-person, or hybrid learning for your student(s), you will make the right decision for your family. Our building principals are available to help you with any specific questions or concerns you may have as you weigh the options for your student(s).

If you are currently without internet access, please contact Mr. Chris Ferry at 724-856-4630 for assistance.

NESHANNOCK TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

REOPENING 2020

CONTACT INFORMATION

MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRADES K-6

Mr. Matt Heasley
Elementary Principal (Grades K-6)
mheasley@ntsd.org

Mrs. Alexis Anderson
Elementary Counselor (Grades K-6)
aaanderson@ntsd.org

JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADES 7-12

Mr. Luca Passarelli
Senior High Principal (Grades 10-12)
lpassarelli@ntsd.org

Mrs. Alicia Measel
Junior High Principal (Grades 7-9)
ameasel@ntsd.org

NESHANNOCK ONLINE PROGRAM GRADES K-12

Grades K-6
724-658-4793 ext. 5103

Grades 7-12
724-658-5513 ext. 5120