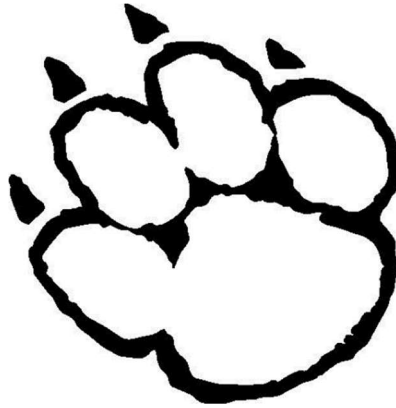


Noah Webster Schools



2020-2021

Parent Handbook
COVID-19 Addendum

Welcome Back Noah Webster Wildcats!

We are looking forward to another great year! We understand the uncertainty that arises with COVID-19 and want to reassure you that the safety of our staff and students is a top priority. We are asking our NWS families to partner with us and to be flexible as we adapt to various changes that must occur in order to ensure safety. Much consideration and thought have gone into planning for the upcoming school year. We would like to provide you with a few policy and procedure updates that will be followed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 STUDENT FACE COVERING POLICY

As required by Executive Order 2020-51, NOAH WEBSTER SCHOOLS (the “School”) is implementing this COVID-19 Student Face Covering Policy to help protect our students, our staff, and our school community. This policy applies to all students enrolled at the School.

When Face Coverings Are Required

The School requires all students to wear face coverings that comply with this policy and the School’s dress code standards whenever a student is on school grounds, in school-provided transportation or attending a school sponsored event, whether inside or outside.

Exceptions

Subject to and in accordance with public health guidance, the School will not require students to wear face coverings under the following limited circumstances:

- When the student is eating or drinking;
- When the School determines, in its sole discretion, that students can socially distance – i.e., sustainably maintain at least 6 feet of separation from other students or staff;*
- When students are outdoors and able to socially distance;
- During breaks intended for students to remove their masks in a safe environment;
- If the student has a documented medical or behavioral condition or disability that makes them unable to wear a face covering (e.g., has trouble breathing, severe respiratory impairments, sensory concerns or tactile sensitivity, or is unable to remove the face covering without assistance); or
- If the student is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

The site principal may consider additional exceptions to this policy; provided, however, that such an exception must comply with applicable public health guidance.

*Given the serious health and safety risks associated with the rapid transmission of COVID-19, the School may, in its sole discretion, require students to wear a face covering even if social distancing is possible.

Acceptable Face Coverings

A face covering is acceptable only if it meets current public health guidance and:

- Completely covers the nose and mouth;
- Fits snugly but comfortably against the side of the face;
- Is secured with ties, ear loops, or another reliable method;
- Are made to sufficiently block respiratory droplets from permeating the face covering; and
- Allows the user to breathe without restriction.

Students may *not* use any face covering that incorporates a one-way valve that is designed to facilitate easy exhaling. The School encourages students to leave medical grade masks (i.e. N95, KN95, or other masks intended for a health care setting) for those serving in front-line health care settings.

Face Shields: Although not required, the School will allow students to wear face shields *in addition* to face masks. Wearing a face shield without wearing a mask is not permitted unless approved by the site principal; provided, however, if a face shield is used without a mask, the face shield must wrap around the sides of the wearer’s face and extend to below the chin.

Provision of Face Coverings

Students are expected to bring their own face coverings to School that comply with the requirements set forth above; however, the School will provide students with a disposable face covering if they forget theirs or are otherwise unable to procure a face covering of their own.

Adaptations and Alternatives

In accordance with public health guidance, as well as applicable disability laws and guidance, the site principal will consider adaptations and alternatives to a student being required to wear a face covering, including for specialty classes and for students with disabilities.

Enforcement and Non-Retaliation

Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the School’s disciplinary policies and procedures.

The School will not tolerate any bullying, harassment, or discrimination arising from or related to students wearing a face covering.

Policy Subject to Change

The School may modify or rescind this policy at any time, in its sole discretion, and without advanced notice in order to adapt to changing public health guidance, legal obligations, and operational needs.

If any part of this policy conflicts with applicable local, county, state law, regulation, or public health guidance, the School will comply with the applicable law, regulation, or public health guidance.

EXTENDED WILDCAT HOURS

Extended Wildcat Hours (Before and After School Care) will be not be available at this time for KG-6th grade students. We will update our families when this program is able to resume. At that time, those students who are enrolled in the in-person learning plan will be eligible to participate in before and after school care at a cost.

Due to COVID, we are implementing a new electronic check in/out system to reduce the amount of physical contact. **Please note, all past sign-ups for before and after school care that were done at the time of enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year are no longer valid.** To enroll in the before and after school program, parents must complete the online enrollment form prior to the student attending. Enrollment will only be available online. Information regarding program times, rates and how to enroll online will be provided once the Extended Wildcat Hours program is open for enrollment.

FOOD SERVICES

IN-PERSON LEARNING MEALS

Noah Webster Schools has contracted with a new caterer this year to help ensure student safety by unitizing school meals. All food items will be individually packaged. To minimize contact with surfaces, such as student lunch boxes, students will first go to lunch followed by recess.

Hand sanitizers will be at each door and students will be required to sanitize their hands upon entering the building. Physical distancing will be practiced in the cafeteria; tables have been marked to show students where to sit. Tables will be sanitized after breakfast and lunch. Cafeteria doors and surfaces will also be sanitized several times throughout the day.

DISTANCE LEARNING MEALS

Students participating in distance learning will be able to purchase meals for pick up during a designated time. Per the Arizona Department of Education, meals can be purchased and picked up for any enrolled NWS students (non-NWS siblings are not eligible). Unfortunately, at this time we are unable to provide multiple food options for picked up meals. Menus will be provided

showing the daily available meals. Students will have the option to either order only one of the meals or both breakfast and lunch. Meals for students participating in distance learning will need to be pre-ordered, just like regular meal orders, to guarantee your student receives his/her ordered meal for each day.

The National Breakfast and Lunch Program still applies to students participating in distance learning. To see if you qualify, complete and return the free and reduced application as soon as possible. If your status is reduced or paid, the corresponding costs will be applied.

ORDERING SCHOOL MEALS

Parents will receive information about ordering meals and menus via email. Noah Webster Schools encourages and recommends parents/legal guardians to utilize the online payment system when ordering school meals to limit and minimize the spread of COVID-19.

Noah Webster Schools has partnered with Boonli.com which provides contactless ordering and payment options for breakfast and lunch on a monthly basis. For instructions on how to set up an account and order meals, please click the Online Payments option at www.noahwebster.org.

If you qualify for free or reduced meals, please contact the Food Services Director, Becci Alvarado at balvarado@noahwebster.org, once the online account is set up or once the student profiles on your active account have been updated. The Food Services Director will then update your meal status. Please note that Free and Reduced Lunch statuses from 2019-2020 are only valid the first 30 days of the new school year. New applications must be completed in order to verify 2020-2021 eligibility.

HEALTH OFFICE

In partnership with parents and guardians to keep our students healthy, we are asking you to screen your child on a daily basis before you send them to school.

If the answer to all of the following is “NO” then send your child to school that day. If you answer “YES” to any of the symptoms below, please keep your child home and notify the Attendance Office **AND** the Health Office.

In the past 24 hours has your student had any of the symptoms below?

- Fever of 100.4 or more (without fever reducing medication)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose

- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea

FREQUENTLY ASKED COVID-19 QUESTIONS

- Q. Do I have to send my student to school with a mask?**
A. Please refer to the Student Mask Policy in this addendum.
- Q. If a member of my household has COVID-19 can my student still attend school if he/she is asymptomatic (no symptoms)?**
A. Unfortunately, if a member of the student's household tests positive for COVID-19 the student must stay home for a period of 14 days. If the student never displays symptoms, then he/she may return to school following the 14-day observation period.
- Q. My student has tested positive for COVID-19, when can he/she return to school?**
A. Your student must remain on home isolation for 10 days since their symptoms started AND 3 days after he or she is fever free and their symptoms have improved.
- Q. Will I be informed if my student was exposed to COVID-19?**
A. Yes, communicable disease notifications will be sent out if there is a known positive case within your student's classroom.
- Q. What guidelines for COVID-19 is NWS following?**
A. NWS is following all guidelines set forth by the AZ Department of Education, Maricopa County Department of Health, and city/state mandates.
- Q. I have additional questions pertaining to COVID-19 who can I contact?**
A. For exposure questions please contact Cyndi Stumer, DBH, our Director of Health Services, at cstumer@noahwebster.org and for general questions please contact noahwebsterschools@noahwebster.org

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Student services and therapies as outlined in their IEPs will be provided via the school's distance learning plan and online platform. Students will meet virtually with SPED staff for teacher and instructional aide led instruction along with independent practice. Independent practice can be, but is not limited to web based activities, hands on projects/activities, or paper/pencil activities. The SPED team will work on targeting the individual student's learning style while distance learning.

Confidentially notices will be sent to parents to acknowledge that services may include their student, along with other peers. Information and activities observed by the student's parent/guardian/coaches, shall be kept confidential. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution of Distance Learning activities provided by the Special Education Department is prohibited.

TITLE ONE

ASSESSMENTS

District wide/LEA Assessments will be conducted either in person as feasible or online where possible according to policies related to the institution originating the assessment.

STATE MANDATED TESTING will be conducted to adhere to the state policies provided at the time of assessment.

AZELLA testing must take place in person at the school facility as per ADE/OELAS (Office of English Language Acquisition Services). Physical testing conditions will be met to provide a safe environment for both student testing and test administrator as per state and school guidelines.

HOMELESS STUDENT POLICY

Students that qualify as homeless and are in need of other resources due to COVID-19 will be reviewed case-by-case.

TRANSPORTATION

Noah Webster will continue to offer busing service to students on a first-come, first-served basis when in-person instruction resumes on campus.

BUSING ASSIGNMENTS

For students assigned to, and using, the bus we will be placing the following practices into effect:

1. Parents must be vigilant to not send students to the bus if they exhibit any sign of illness.
2. Students and driver will be required to wear masks.
3. A hand sanitizer dispenser will be available as they board the bus; use is encouraged.
4. Loading will be from back to front. This will be regardless of age.
5. Unloading will be from front to back.
6. Buses will receive a spray disinfectant a minimum of twice per day.

Bus Load Limitations: At this time, it is not feasible to limit bus loading to one child per seat in every other seat. Some students may need to sit two to a seat. If possible, the preference is for siblings to sit together. We also anticipate having reduced loading on buses due to families choosing to self-transport or choosing the online learning options.

We have, as much as possible, tried to redistribute projected student loads among routes. This has helped to reduce the projected bus loads on some routes.

We are also placing a hard limit on the number of students that can be assigned to a bus of two per full-sized seat. In looking at current/projected bus assignments, we are expecting it to be unlikely that we will reach that limit.

DRIVER AVAILABILITY

We are expecting to start the school year with staffing sufficient to cover all bus routes. But situations may arise where one or more drivers may be unavailable to cover bus routes. In the event that happens, we may have to delay or even cancel routes on short notice.

In order to notify parents, we ask that parents please familiarize themselves with the following contact methods that we will be using:

1. Social media announcement on Facebook.
 - a. A link to our Facebook page is in the upper-right corner of our homepage at www.noahwebster.org
2. Email blast to parents of students on the affected routes.
 - a. Parents should make sure that the school has an accurate email address for you, and that @noahwebster.org is not blocked by your email application.
3. Notifications on the Flyer School app.
 - a. This app, for IOS and Android, must be installed and setup prior to use. Look for “Flyer School” by Propel Mobile in your app store. Contact us for details on registration.