

ENGAGE. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.

August 31, 2020

Dear North Newton Parents and Guardians,

The administration and I want to thank you for your patience and cooperation over the past four weeks as we have started school with masks, social distancing and other protective procedures. We continue to be thankful for your help in screening your children and reinforcing the use of masks. Additionally, we thank you for working with us as we have had to send students home for possible COVID-19 symptoms. We know that it is inconvenient and a disruption to families when we have to send students home to quarantine for 10 days, but it is a necessary practice to help reduce all students' exposure to the illness and help reduce any potential spread.

As we continue to work through the guidance from the Indiana State Department of Health and our local Newton County Health Department, we must also communicate with parents a clarification which may affect family units in our school corporation. Per the guidance from the ISDH, siblings who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 must be quarantined together. *This means that if a sibling has one of the symptoms, we must send the other siblings home as well to quarantine.* We understand this is going to cause a potential hardship on families with regard to childcare and a disruption to the family, however we must follow the guidance. We appreciate your support if notified that a sibling will need to quarantine as well as the potentially infected student.

Lastly, I reach out to you to let you know that starting Tuesday, September 8, 2020, elementary students will participate in a late start with Morning Meetings taking place throughout the buildings from 8:00am-9:00am. The later start will provide dedicated time for teachers to support the needs of our virtual students. **There is NO CHANGE in bus arrival times. Buses run on time and there will be no change in arrival. Parents wishing to drop their child(ren) off at the regular time, or from 8:55-9:00am may do so. *8:00 (regular schedule, no change in transportation, breakfast, etc.) or 8:55 (parents must provide transportation. The tardy bell will ring at 9:05 for all elementary schools starting September 8th.**

Students will be grouped by grade level throughout the building and taught the Second Step SEL curriculum, participate in educational iPad games, and engage in body movement activities such as dance/video, stretching, etc. This Morning Meeting time is supplementary and not a requirement. Our elementary schools already surpass the Indiana Department of Education's minimum instructional requirement by one full hour. This Morning Meeting time will be utilized throughout the first semester and evaluated again in January 2021.



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We are encouraging Virtual Option Learning parents/students to utilize the 8:00am-9:00am time to contact the elementary teacher, as during the day, the teachers' time is restricted unless it is during their established office hours (during specials, other designated times the teacher has set). Please contact your child's school and principal should you have any questions. They would be happy to help you.

Thank you for your continued support of the North Newton School Corporation.

Dr. Cathy L. Rowe



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