

ENGAGE. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.

November 9, 2020

Dear North Newton Parents and Families,

As you may be aware, our county has seen a marked increase in the number of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 in recent weeks. This increase has resulted in our county map to remain Orange in recent weeks and based on our increases over the past few weeks, it is anticipated to move to Red. We closely follow the Indiana Department of Health's guidelines and the state map which indicates how counties are trending. Newton County is trending in the wrong direction. Community spread is taking its toll on our ability as a school to operate under normal operations.

We are struggling on a daily basis to cover classrooms with teachers, staff and students out for positive tests or through contact tracing, making it difficult to adequately and safely supervise students.

With the significant impact of COVID-19 on our school staff, all North Newton schools will engage in Virtual Learning starting Wednesday, November 11th through Wednesday, November 24th. We will return to in-person learning on Monday, November 30th only IF county data indicates an improvement in the number of cases, the test positivity and/or impact to our community. If there is no change in the county level data, and Newton County remains at Red status on November 25th or thereabouts, we will extend Virtual Learning through December 4th. **Virtual Learning requires a more synchronous manner of learning and will involve your child logging into their Google Classroom and being engaged throughout the class period. This is a change from previous ELearning.**

All athletic practices, competitions and all other events are also cancelled until we resume in-person instruction.

Meals will be provided as they have been previously during Virtual Learning. We will push out a survey for parents to complete with more information contained in the survey, like we have done in the past.

Verizon mobile hotspots are available to be checked out from your school's library starting Wednesday. It is necessary for parents to sign the form along with the student prior to students taking the devices home. Limit one per family. The service is free and is for a 2 week lending period. Call your school to learn more or to have a user agreement sent home.

Students are being expected to engage in synchronous learning, which means they should be logging into their Virtual Learning platform at their regularly scheduled school time. Elementary schools will communicate schedules. Junior/Senior High



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Dr. Cathy Rowe

School students should log into their classroom teacher's Google Classroom at their designated school time.

Regular North Newton Jr/Sr High School Schedule that students need to follow:

Period 1: 7:30-8:15

Period 2: 8:20-9:05

Period 3: 9:10-9:55

Period 4: 10:00-10:45

JH Period 5 (A Lunch): 11:50-12:35

HS Period 5 (B Lunch): 11:50-12:35

HS Period 5 (C Lunch): 11:20-12:05

Period 6: 12:40-1:25

Period 7: 1:30-2:20

Elementary Schedule : Teachers will be sharing their individual instructional schedule with you and it is essential that students follow it.

While this move is not ideal or preferable, we need to make a change in our instructional delivery. Lack of substitutes to supervise students and community spread resulting in increased numbers of staff and students needing to quarantine are major reasons for this decision. I am hopeful that we will be able to resume in-person instruction on November 30th, however COVID-19 infection rates will need to drive this decision.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Cathy L. Rowe