

# North Star Montessori Academy

## Return to Learn and Extended Continuity of Learning Plan

### 2022-2024 School Year

North Star Montessori Academy will continue to prioritize full, in-person teaching and learning which provides the greatest benefit to students. Ensuring that this can happen both consistently and safely during the upcoming school year, the 2023-2024 Return to Learn Plan and Extended Continuity of Learning Plan provides detailed guidance to ensure that COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures are implemented in a way that fosters optimal learning environments while simultaneously ensuring the health and safety for students and staff at NSMA.

*Please Note: This plan may change and evolve as knowledge changes surrounding current and potential variants or if the risks of severe disease, hospitalizations, or death increase. The plan may also need to vary based on in-school COVID-19 activity and outbreaks. If such changes are necessary, transition time may be needed to allow the district or building to make adjustments to mitigation strategies. Periodically, but not more than every six months during the life of the grant, the plan will be reviewed and updates will be completed, if deemed necessary.*

Supporting Documents: [MDE and MDHHS “Managing Communicable Diseases in Schools”](#)  
[MDHHS Readiness, Response, Recovery Cycle](#)   [CDC Community Levels](#)   [Mi Safe Start Map](#)

The CDC will determine the COVID-19 community level for the county. Based on the community COVID-19 level, as determined by the CDC, North Star Montessori Academy, in consultation with other local Superintendents, Marquette-Alger RESA, and the Marquette County Health Department, will determine the number of mitigation strategies to implement to foster optimal learning environments while simultaneously ensuring the health and safety of students and staff.

***The district will comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders.***

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The following plan outlines measures for the CDC COVID-19 Community Levels of low, medium, and high.  
The levels do not apply in situations of COVID-19 outbreaks in our school or classrooms.

**Recommended Prevention/Mitigation Strategies:**

Low	Medium	High
<b>Instructional Format</b>		
In-person instruction will occur.	In-person instruction will occur.	In-person instruction will occur, but some classes, grades, or buildings may be moved temporarily to remote instruction if recommended by the health department due to outbreaks and to control in-school spread.
<b>Cleaning and Disinfecting</b>		
The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures.	The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures. Additional disinfecting procedures may be implemented in classrooms during the day as recommended: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html</a>	The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures may be implemented in classrooms during the day as recommended: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html</a>
<b>Cohorting</b>		
Mixing of students will not be restricted.	Mixing of students may be restricted in some areas, activities, classrooms, and/or buildings.	Mixing of students may be restricted in some areas, activities, classrooms, and/or buildings.
<b>COVID-19 Testing</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● North Star Montessori Academy will cooperate with the Marquette County Health Department (MCHD) regarding implementing protocols for screening students and staff.</li> <li>● If required by the MCHD, our families will be notified via email of the presence of any laboratory positive or clinically diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in the classroom and/or school to encourage closer observation for any symptoms at home.</li> <li>● Testing will not be required but may be used as a Test to Stay (TTS) option under medium and high levels of transmission.</li> </ul>		

Low	Medium	High
<b>Extracurricular and Field Trips</b>		
Extracurricular activities may occur as scheduled.	Short-term dismissals and suspension of extracurricular activities and field trips may be paused.	Short-term dismissals and suspension of extracurricular activities and field trips may be paused.
<b>Face Coverings (Masks)</b>		
Staff, students, volunteers, and visitors will have the option of wearing facial coverings/masks during school functions. This will not be a requirement. We will respect the choice made by families regarding the wearing of masks.	Staff, students, volunteers, and visitors will have the option of wearing facial coverings/masks during school functions. This will not be a requirement. We will respect the choice made by families regarding the wearing of masks.	Staff, students, volunteers, and visitors will have the option of wearing facial coverings/masks during school functions. This will not be a requirement. We will respect the choice made by families regarding the wearing of masks.
<i>If the Marquette County Health Department or the State of Michigan issue a mask mandate, North Star Montessori Academy students and staff will follow the mandate. When the mandate is lifted, North Star Montessori Academy will fall back to a mask optional policy.</i>		
<b>Food Service</b>		
Normal food service operations will occur.	Normal food service operations will occur. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place as indicated.	Normal food service operations will occur. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place as indicated.
<b>Gathering and Facility Use</b>		
No restrictions on gatherings or use of facilities.	Restrictions on gathering size and/or use of facilities may be implemented. Outside agency use of facilities may be restricted.	Restrictions on gathering size and/or use of facilities may be implemented. Outside agency use of facilities may be restricted.

Low	Medium	High
<b>Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette</b>		
Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette are expected.	Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette are expected and additional opportunities for proper hand washing will be available throughout the day. Hand sanitizing may be required when students leave or enter the classroom and other designated areas.	Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette are expected and additional opportunities for proper hand washing will be available throughout the day. Hand sanitizing will be required when students leave or enter the classroom and other designated areas.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● North Star Montessori Academy will provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for safe use by staff and students, paper towels, tissues, and signs reinforcing proper handwashing techniques). We will also encourage handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.</li> <li>● North Star Montessori Academy will encourage staff and students to cough and sneeze into their elbows or to cover with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately using proper hand hygiene techniques.</li> <li>● North Star Montessori Academy staff will systematically and frequently check and refill soap and hand sanitizers.</li> <li>● North Star Montessori Academy teaching staff will strongly encourage students to thoroughly wash their hands with soap throughout the school day. Teachers and/or custodial staff will disinfect classroom materials between use or provide adequate supplies to assign for individual student cleaning.</li> <li>● North Star Montessori Academy will continue to use hand sanitizing stations throughout the school buildings, including individual classrooms.</li> </ul>		
<b>Isolation and Quarantine</b>		
The District will follow current guidance and recombinations of MMDHS, MDHHS, and CDC pursuant to the district’s authority under MCL 380.11a(3) and Rule 325.175(2).		
<b>Meetings and Conferences</b>		
In-district/out-of-district meetings and conferences will be permitted.	In-district/out-of-district meetings and conferences may be limited, virtual, or may be suspended.	In-district/out-of-district meetings and conferences may be limited, virtual, or may be suspended.

Low	Medium	High
<b>Offices</b>		
<p>District and building offices will be open for normal school business. Visitors and guests are allowed in buildings per district policy.</p>	<p>District and building offices will be open for normal school business. Prioritize visits to minimize office visitor traffic. Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place as deemed appropriate. Visitors and guests may be limited.</p>	<p>District and building offices will be open for normal school business. Prioritize visits to minimize office visitor traffic. Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place as deemed appropriate. Visitors and guests may be limited.</p>
<b>Remote/Virtual Learning</b>		
<p>The district does not have a virtual option for Elementary &amp; Middle School students. The district will do its best to provide resources for students who are unable to attend in person due to isolation or quarantine. If a classroom or school is closed, all students impacted by the closure may be provided remote learning opportunities throughout the closure.</p> <p>High School Students could continue to work from home on Imagine Learning Platform.</p>		
<b>Social Distancing</b>		
<p>No social distancing measure will be put in place.</p>	<p>Social Distancing measures may be provided as able. Adjustments to school procedures, schedules, activities, etc., may be made to adjust to the social distancing requirements.</p>	<p>Additional Social Distancing measures may be provided as able. Adjustments to school procedures, schedules, activities, etc., may be made to adjust to the social distancing requirements.</p>
<b>Health Screening</b>		
<p>Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending students to school.  <b>DO NOT SEND STUDENTS TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK.</b>            See the student illness section.</p>		
<b>Student Illness</b>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">☰ My Child is Sick, now what? 23-24</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Star Montessori Academy will cooperate with the Marquette County Health Department regarding implementing protocols for students and staff.</li> </ul>		

- Our staff will encourage families to check their child's temperature at home each morning using oral, tympanic, or temporal thermometers. Students with a temperature of 100.4 or greater will stay home and consider testing if symptoms of COVID-19 are present.
- Our staff will encourage families to monitor their children for symptoms of COVID-19. We will recommend if there is a presence of any symptoms, including cough or shortness of breath, should prompt the family to keep the student home from school to follow up with a primary care provider.

### **COVID-19 Testing**

- North Star Montessori Academy will cooperate with the Marquette County Health Department regarding implementing protocols for screening students and staff.
- If required by the Marquette County Health Department, or families will be notified via email of the presence of any laboratory positive or clinically diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in the classroom and/or school to encourage closer observation for any symptoms at home.

### **Projects/Activities performed using funding from the Elementary & Secondary School Educational Relief Fund (ESSER)**

Additional personnel employed to combat social/emotional issues for our students and staff.

- Additional technology to help address learning loss
- Additional personnel employed to address learning loss
- After school programming to address learning loss

Approved on September 28, 2022 Board Meeting  
Reviewed on February 28, 2024 Board Meeting