

North Nodaway R-VI Alternative Method of
Instruction Plan

Pandemic/ Inclement Weather

2020-2021



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Introduction:

North Nodaway School District will be ready to educate our students as soon as health officials think that is safe enough to resume our work. The experience that was gained from COVID-19 in the spring of 2020 will help guide us and our decision for the school year of 2020-21. This plan will focus on how our district intends to educate students remotely at home, with limited interaction, and as normal as possible, with additional safety guidelines. Therefore, this plan takes many aspects into account to make our district and students as safe as possible. This plan is not inclusive of everything possible as COVID-19 has been unpredictable. The purpose of this plan is to reopen our school in a way that is safe and responsive to the needs of our families and the community.

The path to reopening is based on the direction of public health and the current guidance of social distance measures being mandated or applied locally in Northwest Missouri and more specifically Pickering and Hopkins. Depending on the direction of public health, our district may experience times of stopping and starting, staggered openings, and periods of normal operation.

The North Nodaway administration staff members have devised this plan to best understand this pandemic and what is needed to contain and mitigate any concerns. We have utilized information from our district patron survey to guide many of our decisions within this plan.

Educational Strategies/Phases:

There are three educational strategies/phases that we are anticipating to educate the students of North Nodaway. This is all depending on the community spread of COVID-19 and recommendations presented by local health authorities.

- **Normal Operation/No or Minimal Spread-** Our initial plan is to open school as closely to normal as possible based on no or minimal community spread of COVID-19. All students will be allowed to attend as “normal” with staff and students using healthy hygiene practices, increased cleaning and disinfecting, and daily temperature checks. These will be done by the nurse and/or administrative staff prior to students entering the building. Guests may or may not be allowed into the building depending on the situation. Sick students and staff need to stay home to keep spread from happening. During this time, custodial staff will intensify cleaning and disinfecting of classrooms, buses, and shared spaces. Non-critical events may be postponed or altered based on the community's needs. Continued education of the pandemic will take place for students, staff, and patrons of the district.
- **Partial Remote Learning Strategy/Moderate Spread-** This method will be used when health authorities suggest that we limit the number of students and staff to confined spaces such as classrooms and buses. This method will be utilized if there is moderate community spread and a spike in cases in Pickering or Hopkins. This method will consist of students attending either Monday and Wednesday with an alternating Friday, or Tuesday and Thursday with an alternating Friday. We realize that this method creates some additional coordination amongst staff and for families, but the face to face interaction is valuable to assist and monitor student progress with learning. The administration staff will determine which families will be

assigned Monday/Wednesday and those that will be Tuesday/Thursday based on the families last name. For example, a family with the last name of Smith might be assigned a Tuesday/Thursday schedule. During this method of instruction students will receive educational instruction of the district curriculum and provided with additional resources and instruction to complete work independently, at home, on days not in school. It is our expectation that teachers provide a means that parents can request help or assistance concerning assignments being completed at home. During this strategy/phase the following will be done to help mitigate and reduce the further spread of COVID-19: increase social distancing on buses, suspending all non-essential activities, limiting visitors, increasing the number of temperature checks, increase hygiene and disinfecting practices, administering COVID-19 testing, encouraging students and staff to wear protective equipment, and closing all playground facilities. Preschool families will be charged a prorated amount during this phase.

- **Complete Remote Learning/Wide Spread-** Complete remote learning is the strategy that our district will utilize as a last resort if school closures are necessary. Closures may be a result of substantial community spread or a mandate from federal, state, or local authorities. The district will also resort to this strategy should a student test positive for COVID-19 to allow Nodaway County Health officials to conduct contact tracing practices. This strategy will entail students being sent home with a Chromebook and teachers providing instruction remotely for all students. One Chromebook(s) will be assigned to each family for every two students and sent home with the oldest student enrolled. Should additional devices be needed, please contact the central office. The district will take measures to ensure that equitable access is available to all students. This may include opening up access points to families in school parking lots, and/or providing “hot spots” to families in need. Teachers will utilize

Google platforms for learning such as: Google classroom, Google hangouts, and Google Docs. Teachers in the elementary may send instructional packets home that assist or compliment the on-line learning. Middle school and high school students will also utilize Edgenuity on-line resources for instruction. Students will be expected to check their school gmail accounts daily, as teachers will post assignments by 10:00 a.m. each morning. The district will recommend that teachers provide at least one on-line live interaction per week to check on students and to monitor student progress.

Pandemic/Inclement Weather:

The state of Missouri has instructed all districts to submit a plan for an alternative method of instruction (AMI) for students should it be forced to close (like in the spring of 2020). With an approved plan, the district may be exempt from making up missed instruction time. This year the state is also allowing districts to utilize this alternative method of instruction when schools are dismissed for inclement weather. North Nodaway will not utilize an AMI method for early out dismissals due to weather. Complete Remote Learning (described above) will be used after the 4th snow day of the school year. A school district textcaster will be sent out stating that the school district will be closed due to weather but students will be utilizing remote learning, therefore must check school emails for assignments by 10:00 a.m.

Communication:

Communication between the home and school is paramount in a time of crisis. We will take every effort as a district to keep students, staff, and

patrons informed of changes associated with the spread of COVID-19. Our district's main form of communication will be via the school textcaster. We encourage families to sign up and utilize this service. The textcaster will feature messages or messages with instructions to check email, the school website, or a letter attached. The secondary form of communication that will be employed during this time will be letters sent from the school administration. We ask that teaching staff send their correspondence through student emails or other platforms approved by building administrators. Decisions concerning COVID-19 will be made with the collaboration of administration, staff, health officials, community agencies. The contact personnel for North Nodaway is the superintendent followed by building administrators.

Student and Staff Expectations

As we try to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 we need to establish some expectations of students and staff. When determining expectations, we as administration had to keep the feasibility/practicality of our requests at the forefront of our decisions. Therefore there may be some expectations that could be considered "safer" but determined not to be feasible.

- Students and staff will determine for themselves should they wear protective masks to school. The feasibility of preschoolers or older students keeping them on or not bothering them seemed impractical.
- Students and staff will be requested to utilize social distancing practices in classrooms, public spaces, buses, and during extra-curricular activities.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to utilize proper hand washing and hygiene practices.
- Teachers will provide on-line learning instruction and training based on the strategy being employed.

- Teachers will post assignments by 10:00am each day. Students will be expected to do the work by checking their emails each day after 10:00 am. Assignments may be turned in via on-line platforms, taking pictures, or other means requested by the teacher.
- Teachers are expected to notify students and parents concerning how to receive assistance on independent work assignments.
- All teachers are expected to have at least one live video conference or on-line interaction per week.
- Teachers will adhere to additional minimal expectations determined by their building principal or superintendent.

Cleaning/Disinfecting:

The district will make a concerted effort to increase the cleanliness of facilities during the pandemic. Custodial/teacher staff will clean desks, chairs, door knobs, and water fountains along with bathroom facilities throughout the day and again in the evening. Teachers will be asked to wipe down their desks with disinfectant wipes at the end of the day in the elementary and as necessary in the middle/high school. Bus seating and rails will be sprayed and wiped down after bus routes. Special surfaces will be cleaned more often as needed such as bleachers and weight room materials. Because of the increased cleaning, more supplies and materials will be needed to provide a safe environment.

Busing:

The district will evaluate busing needs depending on the Instructional phase the school is in. When possible the bus will be filled starting in the back and alternating every other seat back and forth across the aisle. Siblings and family members will be encouraged to sit together to maximize space. Bus drivers will be highly encouraged to wear masks. Students

will not be restricted from entering the bus to ride unless specifically told by the nurse or administration. Busing protocols of social distancing will be stressed with students in extracurricular activities and travel to practices.

Daily School Procedures:

- **Water Fountains-** Only bottle filling stations will be in use. Students/staff will need to bring a bottle for water. (All phases)
- **Social Distancing Markers-** Students and staff will need to adhere to social distancing/directional markers that will be placed within the building. More specifically at lunch, specials, hallways, bathrooms, and lining up locations for playgrounds, and busing purposes. These practices will definitely be used during the partially remote phase.
- **Morning Procedures-** In the elementary school, after students arrive, they will get their temperature checked and then proceed to hang up their belongings and either go to the commons to eat breakfast or go to their classrooms where staff will be waiting for them. In the high school, students will arrive through the commons door to get their temperatures checked and proceed to the small gym to be dismissed for breakfast. The staff members on duty will make sure that social distancing is being maintained in the gym and cafeteria. (Temperature checks will only happen during the partially remote phase when there is moderate spread)
- **Breakfast/Lunch Procedures-** In order to minimize the spread of surface contamination, students will receive their trays and utensils from the cafeteria staff for both breakfast and during lunch. There will be 3 lunch shifts in the elementary (preK and K, 1st-2nd, and 3rd-5th). In the high school, there will be 2 shifts:(middle school and high school). Trading food, utilizing a share table, or serving yourself will be prohibited. A limited

salad bar may be offered but served by the staff. If seating becomes an issue, the administration may need to look at placing additional tables in areas such as the gym or have students eat in their classrooms. This may require the cafeteria staff to utilize disposable trays and utensils.

- **Passing Periods/ Attending Specials-** The elementary teachers will have to utilize safe judgement to get students from their classrooms to special classes throughout the day. In the high school/middle school, students will pass between classes accordingly: high school will dismiss on the first bell and the junior high will be dismissed on the second bell for each class.
- **Sick Student-** Sick students or those showing symptoms of having COVID-19 will be sent home immediately by the nurse/ school administration. Temperatures should not be 100.4 degree or higher to be at school. The nurse/ administrator will notify the superintendent and then proceed with contacting the Nodaway County Health Department. The superintendent or his designee will start the proper communication to others. If students are complaining about being sick before coming to school, please don't send them to school or use fever reducing medicine prior to sending them to school.

Northwest Technical Center Students:

All North Nodaway students attending Northwest Technical Center are expected to attend days that they are in session even if the district is in a limited or remote phase of learning. The only time they would not attend is if we called for inclement weather or if they were not in session. The North Nodaway School District will provide transportation. Students are expected to ride the bus unless they are given special permission by the administration.

Extracurricular Activities/ Events:

Participating in extracurriculars comes with extra risk often because of the nature of the activity. The North Nodaway School District will follow guidelines and recommendations put forth by the state athletic association. Athletic coaches will try to do as much practice outside as possible. Coaches will try to incorporate procedures that allow for social distancing when possible. Coaches will be asked to limit the number of students participating in contests, if possible, to minimize exposure. Alternative schedules or minimizing the number of participants at a given time will be considered. Spectators at events may be limited based on available space to maintain social distancing. Extra hygiene will be provided during events such as hand washing stations. Concessions may not be available at these events. Gate workers will wear protective equipment because of the personal contact of others. Should North Nodaway go to complete remote-learning activities will be cancelled as stated by MSHSAA.