
Transition Plan for Returning to School 2020-2021

Nettle Creek CCSD #24C

Topics to be Covered

- School Hours
- Bussing/Arrival/Dismissal Procedures
- Learning Options for Students
- Health Procedures
- Classroom Procedures
- Maintenance Procedures

Decision Governed by 2 Important Factors

1. Guidance that was provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the State Board of Education (ISBE) on June 23, 2020 in a document entitled, “Starting the 2020-21 School Year”, which can be found at <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Part-3-Transition-Planning-Phase-4.pdf>
2. Five mandates (requirements) provided by the IDPH / ISBE that must be followed for in-person instruction to resume. Nettle Creek’s Return to School Plan includes these mandates.
 - Requiring face coverings for individuals of every age in the school (clear face shields are not required)
 - Requiring hand hygiene (handwashing with soap and water or use of hand sanitizer)
 - Requiring physical distancing (at least 6 feet)
 - Requiring appropriate coughing and sneezing practices
 - Requiring appropriate cleaning and disinfection practices

School Hours to Begin the Year

- Half day schedule from August 25-September 11. 8:10-12:00pm.
- We will then re-evaluate our plan and see if we are able to bring students back to a full day, in person schedule. We will continue to do this every 3 weeks.
- We will not return to full day instruction until we feel that it is safe for our students to be in the building all day. Our staff is committed to providing the best possible educational experience for all students.
- We understand that the requirement of face masks may make a half/full day of instruction a difficult task, but we will be utilizing our outdoor space as much as possible throughout the day to help with mask breaks.
- Students will be leaving the building at noon, but they will be required to complete additional assignments and/or join meetings with their teacher(s) in the afternoon. This schedule will be given out to students/families as we approach our first day of student attendance.

Mask Requirement

- Masks are required for anyone in the building. You will not be allowed to enter the building without a mask on.

Originally ISBE had stated that face shields could be used, but they have rescinded that statement and now **ONLY face masks are allowed.**



Bus Rider Requirements

- Everyone on the bus **MUST** wear a face covering, including the bus driver
- Student must present bus driver with a self certification form each day. If that is not presented, the bus driver will be completing a temp and symptom check and with the child (temp check, certification questions)
- If temp is 100.4 or higher, child will not be allowed to board the bus and parents will be called.
- Bus riders will sit with siblings this year, beginning with the back of the bus first, to minimize exposure.

Car Rider Requirements

- Car riders **MUST** remain in their vehicles until either a certification form has been given to a staff member or a temperature check has been completed. This will begin at 8:00am by Ms. Olson/Mrs. Darlington and possibly additional staff if needed.
- Students **MUST** put on their mask **BEFORE** leaving the vehicle.
- Students will then be socially distanced (6ft or more) until the first bell rings at 8:10am. If the weather cooperates, and they are outside, they may remove their mask, but then it will be put back on when entering the building.
- **PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF YOUR CHILD AND JUST LEAVE.**

Self Certification Form Sample

Date:	Circle Yes or No Below					
Student Name	Fever, Cough, Chills, and/or muscle aches	Sore throat, runny nose, and/or loss of taste or smell	Nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea	Shortness of breath and/or headache	Close contact, or cared for someone with COVID-19	Temp (if greater than or equal to 100.4, you cannot enter the building)
	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	
	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	
	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	
	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	
	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	

Additional Temp Checks/Entry to Building/Lockers

- As another layer of protection, temperature checks will happen with every child as they leave the bus to enter the school.
- Entry will begin with our 8th graders, then 7th graders, and continue in reverse grade order. This minimizes students passing each other in the hallway.
- Students will be allowed to use lockers, but they will enter their classroom first and then be sent out in small groups(2-3) to put things away while maintaining social distancing. 6-8 students will NOT visit lockers in between classes.

Classroom Procedures

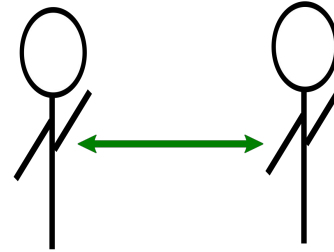
Frequent Hand Washing



Hand sanitizer available in every classroom

Flexible seating will be cleaned daily **AND only used by 1 child for an extended period of time.**

In our 6-8 classrooms, desks/tables/chairs will all be sanitized at the end of class - prior to the next class of students arriving.



Social distancing students



Face coverings worn when in class even when social distancing is followed

Social Distancing/Mask Breaks

- Social distancing will be observed to the greatest extent possible. Classroom layout, seating, and activities will be modified as much as possible. However, everyone must realize that our students and staff cannot be six feet apart at all times. Nevertheless, we need everyone to do their part with social distancing.
- Mask breaks will be given to students SEVERAL times throughout the day, weather permitting. We have ample space outdoors to keep them 6 ft apart with masks removed and still learning! Our staff is beyond creative!!

COVID-19 Symptoms/Chart

Additional guidance regarding information below will be coming to school district this week or early next week so this is subject to change

Direct Exposure/No Symptoms

May Return after 14 days

Cannot Return even with a Negative COVID Test (Prior to 14 days)

14 day period begins with first day of exposure

Additional requirements of IDPH/GCHD.

Diagnosis/No Symptoms

Must be home for at least 10 days from day of 1st positive COVID Test

Must provide proof of test (date)

You must have 2 negative COVID tests in a row (at least 24 hours apart) to return

Diagnosis/Symptoms

Must remain home for 14 days. Waiting on clarification of when the 14 days begins - as of now, we are saying 14 days from positive test result.

At least 3 days (72 hours) of fever free WITHOUT fever reducing medication

Proof of positive test date and of negative test date

Nurse/Quarantine Areas

Nettle Creek has always had a nurse “on staff” but not in the building full time/every day. We have used a nurse on an “as needed” basis. Mrs. Entwistle (secretary/bookkeeper) and I share the duties of temperature checks, ice packs, band-aid distribution, etc)

If the BOE decides to change this procedure, you will be notified.

Currently, we have areas designated for dealing with normal nursing needs (band-aid, itch creams, ice packs) versus an isolation area for students waiting to be picked up (potential COVID symptoms) Both areas will be sanitized after use by students.

We need your help!

DO NOT send your child to school when he/she is sick.

DO NOT give them fever reducing medication prior to entering the building. Keep them at home please! We know this is difficult for working parents, but it is necessary.

We understand allergies are present in children and adults. Use your best judgement as to when to send your child and when to keep him/her home.

We understand that sometimes you just have a runny nose. Again, use your best judgement as to when to send your child and when to keep him/her home.

We know returning students well! We know who may just have a stomach ache due to anxiety or a student who gets chronic headaches

Sanitizing

- All products used will be on the EPA approved list
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>
- Mr. Ripp will follow is normal cleaning routine AND give special attention to door knobs and frequently touched surfaces throughout the day and clean classrooms during the half-day of attendance

****When we move to full day attendance, we will be looking to add additional cleaning done each evening after students and staff leave the building****

Specials

All students in grades K-5 receive 3 specials classes at Nettle Creek. Those are PE, Technology and Music. Mrs. Dunne is our PE teacher, Mrs. Panico is our technology teacher, and we welcome Miss Diehl to Nettle Creek as our new music teacher for the 2020-2021 school year.

Students in grades 6-8 are able to choose which specials classes they would like to attend.

During our half-day attendance, students will still receive their specials classes and I am currently working on a schedule that would allow for ample time to sanitize between classes.

More information will be added as planning continues.

Extra Curricular Activities



IESA should be putting out information this Friday in regards to which sports they will be allowing for the Fall. Even though we do not follow an IESA schedule completely, our determination will align with their decision. Parents in grades 5-8 will be notified when a decision has been made.

Lunch/Recess

At this time, we will not be having lunch/recess for our students. When we feel that it is possible to return to school full-time, we will finalize our plans for these two areas prior to full day return. In the document, you will see a “1st draft” of what it could potentially look like.

Students who qualify for free and reduced lunch will be given the option to take home a cold sack lunch that will consist of a sandwich, a cheese stick, and an applesauce (or something comparable).

Learning Options

- In Person/Remote Learning (Students would follow our plan that begins with half days of in person learning and then remote learning in the afternoon) **5 contact hours total each day**
- FULL Remote Learning (Remote Learning Contract would be signed by parent/student) This would be a quarterly (9 weeks) commitment
- Homeschooling (see ISBE website for more details - link below) <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Homeschool.aspx>

Learning Options (Con't)

All of this information will be sent out via email to our families and it will all be posted on our website under the tab "RTS Plan 20-21"

In order for us to plan, we'd like families to make a decision by Monday, July 27th. You will be sent a link in the email that you will use to fill out a quick survey with your choice for the beginning of the year.

Questions?

This is a continuously changing plan and it will continue to be updated until school begins on August 25th.

This will be placed on our website along with the document that has this same information in word form under the tab "RTS Plan 20-21"

Email any additional questions you may have to me at marissa.darlington@nettlecreek.org

