

***Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton
School District
Reopening Plan***



2021-2022

"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself"

#FalconStrong

N-O-W School District Reopening Plans for 2021-2022

Greetings!

I hope this letter finds you healthy, well, and excited for an awesome school year ahead of us! On behalf of everyone here at the Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton School District, we are dedicated and committed to ensuring that the health and safety of our students, staff, and visitors is top priority. School staff will do everything possible to ensure that all stakeholders are able to have the best school year possible. There will be challenges along the way and we want to thank everyone for being flexible, understanding, open-minded, and operating as one team that is truly #FalconStrong. Together we will have a fantastic school year where students and staff will feel valued, respected, appreciated, and safe.

It is important to remember that this N-O-W Board of Education approved document is a “fluid” document that can change based on updated mandates or guidelines that are changed by federal, state, and local health authorities. Updated information and any changes will be communicated via the N-O-W School District’s Facebook page, Skyblasted information to parents’ emails, and/or letters sent home with students when needed. If you have any questions throughout the school year, please contact the school: 608-337-4401. We kindly ask that if you have questions or comments in regards to school functions and operations to avoid social media, simply contact school officials to ensure all information is accurate and that your questions can be answered in detail. This form of communication is much appreciated. Thank you!

We are all looking forward to a tremendous year at N-O-W and together we will conquer any challenge that comes our way. Thanks again for being supportive and a partner in creating a wonderful learning environment for everyone. Let’s have a great year!

#FalconStrong,

Travis Anderson

N-O-W District Administrator

REOPENING PLAN LAST UPDATED: 8-18-21

General School-Day Operations for All 4K-12th Grade Students & Staff

*Masking/Wearing Face Coverings is **Highly Recommended**. Please be respectful of everyone's choice. We will continue to teach kindness & empathy in respecting choices.

*Hand Sanitizing stations will be by every entrance door, located in all classrooms, and multiple stations throughout the school for anyone to use. Visitors, please don't forget to sanitize your hands before entering the school building and again consistently while in the building.

*Social distancing is **Highly Recommended**, but not always possible at all times within the school building. Students, staff, and visitors must do their best to social distance within the school to avoid exposure to COVID-19.

*COVID-19 Vaccine is not mandated to attend school.

*Contact tracing will be conducted by the school district Health Team or if directed by the Monroe County Health Department

*No limiting of spectators at co-curricular events. Masks are recommended, but not required. Social distancing by spectators is also encouraged.

Sanitization/COVID-19 Mitigation Procedure

- Staff will use "charged" rags for sanitizing their high touch surfaces at least every 40-60 minutes.
- Staff will place all garbage cans and "charge" rag containers in the hallway after students have been dismissed at the end of the school day.

- Custodial staff will use sanitizing misting machines in hallways and high touch areas every 60-120 minutes.
- Social distance in lunch lines as much as possible.
- PE and extracurricular equipment will be sanitized frequently. General rule of thumb is after each class, or if possible every 20-45 minutes, or between station activities if possible.
- Focus on general hygiene practices: regular hand washing, physical distancing, utilizing a face covering if not feeling well and have been confirmed you don't have COVID-19

Before Coming to School

*Parents should conduct a child wellness check before sending their child(ren) to school each day. Please monitor your child's temperature and if it exceeds 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, please keep your child home and call the school to report, or submit via Skyward if able, your child's absence and health condition. Other symptoms may include: cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell. If you have any questions prior to sending your child to school, please call the school and ask for a Health Team member.

Student Instruction

*Students will be in-person learning 5 days/week from 7:45 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. following our regular calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. *(See calendar on last page)*

Note: Schedules vary slightly from Elementary to JH/HS

*No contracted virtual option will be offered for the 2021-2022 school year from outside the district unless previously communicated with Mrs. Funk (JH/HS Principal) or Mrs. Nemec (JH/HS Guidance Counselor). If a student is quarantined for any reason, their classroom teacher will instruct them utilizing curriculum platforms such as Google Classroom/SeeSaw/etc. The learning platform used for your child's specific learning needs will be determined and communicated by your

child's classroom teacher if they cannot be present in the building due to COVID-19.

*Staff and students must be ready to move to a virtual learning platform on short notice. Educators will communicate and prepare learning options and procedures within the first few weeks of the school year so students and staff are ready if needing to transition the entire school or part of the school to a virtual learning model.

*Classroom teachers will do their best to socially distance students as much as possible; however, this is not always possible. School staff will encourage good hygiene at all times to minimize exposure even if students cannot always maintain a 6' spacing from another student/staff member.

*Band/Choir will return to normal operation of playing instruments and singing. Staff will social distance participants as much as possible during these classes.

*Plexiglass barriers are still encouraged when close contact learning is taking place.

Transportation

*Parents, conduct the child wellness check before sending your child on the bus each morning. (Same wellness check explained previously)

*Encourage your child to use the hand sanitizing station on the bus stairway while loading/unloading from the bus.

***The Federally Mandated CDC Order is requiring that all persons riding public transportation must wear a mask - this includes busses to school. So, please provide a mask for your child to wear while riding the bus at all times. Once exited the bus, masking remains "Highly Recommended".**

*If your child is scheduled to ride the bus, but will not be, please call the District Office and inform us of that. This will allow our driver's flexibility with their seating

chart options.

*All bus drivers will create a seating chart for all students to avoid exposure risks as much as possible. Seating chart details are at the bus driver's discretion.

COVID Testing, Contact Tracing, Quarantining

*N-O-W will become part of the Department of Health Services (DHS) COVID testing program. The DHS will be working with our school nurse to make testing available to staff and students in the district. If a student or staff member displays COVID symptoms and parents/guardians give permission to have the student tested, students may be able to be tested at school by the Nurse and receive results in 15-30 minutes. If a more accurate PCR test is advised, results can be obtained in 24-48 hours.

*No student can be tested without parent consent.

*With the intention to minimize quarantine disruptions this school year, only individuals who have tested positive will need to isolate for 10 days. Close contacts of a positive case will not be quarantined unless the close contact is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (or also directed to do so by their healthcare provider, or county health official), but it is **Highly Recommended** that all close contact(s) wear a face covering for 14 days. It is **Highly Recommended** to get tested on day 5 after exposure or experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19.

*If a student or staff member tests positive outside of the school, it is the responsibility of that student's family, or the staff member, to immediately notify the school nurse of the positive test so that they can communicate the next steps.

*If a student or staff member has a confirmed positive case of COVID-19, they must be out of school for 10 days and must have improved symptoms prior to returning to school. The count of 10 days begins at the onset of symptoms or

positive test, whichever happened first. This date will be determined by the Monroe County Health Department.

*If a student has symptoms of COVID-19, but gets better within two days and has a negative test result, he/she may return to school unless they have high risk symptoms such as; new cough, new loss of taste/smell, or difficulty breathing. Students must also have approval of the school Nurse or the Monroe County Health Department to return to school.

*Families will be notified by the school district or health department of known exposures to COVID-19 within the school.

Staff Expectations

Educators / Assistants:

- Provide classroom setups using physical distancing when feasible.
- Encourage and remind students to physical distance whenever possible.
- Limit shared classroom materials.
- Utilize increased ventilation measures that are available within the classroom
- Model the use of cleaning supplies while cleaning frequently touched surfaces
- Encourage regular hand sanitizing provided by the district in the classroom, hallways, entrances, and other areas of the school.
- Encourage frequent handwashing
- As we know that symptomatic students are sent to the nurse, we want to make every effort to protect our non-symptom kids going to her, more First Aid type issues and medications may need to be handled in the classroom.

Custodians:

- Provide teachers with all cleaning supplies needed daily. If more supplies are needed, please email District Maintenance Director
- Ensure classrooms with sinks are supplied with soap and towels for frequent hand washing throughout the day.
- Provide hand sanitizer stations in common areas and classrooms
- Increase air intake as recommended.
- Health offices/Isolation rooms will be disinfected after each potential exposure

Administration:

- Ensure classrooms are physically distanced when feasible.
- Ensure classrooms are cleaned and disinfected according to the cleaning and disinfecting plan.
- Ensure supplies are readily available for custodians and teaching staff.
- Provide education to staff and students about handwashing, mask use, physical distancing, hygiene etiquette and cleaning and disinfecting plans.
- Ensure supplies are readily available for custodians.
- Encourage and remind students to physical distance whenever feasible.
- Assign and ensure designated doors are propped open at arrival and dismissal. Only doors that are monitored by an assigned staff member will be propped open.

CDC Information

(August 5, 2021)

CDC Recommendations as of August 5th: This is a reminder that these are only recommendations and not mandates at the present time:

- Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority.
- Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.
- Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.

- In addition to universal indoor masking, CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as screening testing.
- Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.
- Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Many schools serve children under the age of 12 who are not eligible for vaccination at this time. Therefore, this guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (e.g., using multiple prevention strategies together consistently) to protect students, teachers, staff, visitors, and other members of their households and support in-person learning.
- Localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies (e.g., physical distancing, screening testing).

Emergency contacts

Travis Anderson – District Administrator
Angela Funk – JH/HS Principal
Melissa McKittrick – Elementary Principal
Cindy Springborn – Director of Pupil Services
Carmen Peterson – School Nurse
Kim Nofsinger – Health Assistant
Doug Schmitz -Maintenance Director
Travis Taylor – Transportation Director
Holly Nemec – JH/HS Guidance Counselor
Ken Manning – Elementary Counselor

School Phone Number: 608-337-4401

Conclusion

The Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton School District is excited to begin a new school year even with some challenges and unknowns ahead of us. Thank you for your support, patience, and team effort to ensure that the 2021-2022 school year is a great one!

#FalconStrong