



*We Are* **NM**

## **NMRSD Update**

### **Friday, October 30, 2020**

Dear NM Community,

I hope this update finds you well. As if 2020 has not been challenging enough, it had to hit us with our first snow in October and the Patriots are heading into Sunday with a record of 2-4!!!

Please review the information below, and I hope everyone is able to enjoy the Halloween weekend.

#### **Townsend Internet**

As I shared back in the spring, I had contacted Congresswoman Trahan's office regarding the lack of broadband Internet service in some of our Townsend neighborhoods.

After multiple conversations with Jack Brindisi from Congresswoman Trahan's office, I have been assured that both Unitil and Verizon should be finished with their pole work by the end of next week and that Comcast will begin the installation of broadband cabling. It is my understanding this should be completed relatively soon.

#### **School Committee Meetings**

As you may be aware, while the last few school committee meetings have been held in-person, we continue to experience "technical difficulties" with those who are logging into the Google Meet from home.

We have discovered that if you log into the meeting remotely that the issues you are experiencing are likely issues with your connection as the recordings on our end are very clear. Recordings are posted to the district website the next day. That said, we encourage those who want to listen in to meetings to "call-in" as that is much clearer. We look forward to the time when we can both have community members in-person and meetings televised. Still, we cannot ensure appropriate physical distancing to accommodate either of those at this time.

Please remember that if you would like to make a public comment to email me the transcript of your comment by 5:00 pm the night of the meeting.

## **Updates from School Health Services**

As life with COVID continues, many of us are becoming weary of the many changes it has brought to our lives, as well as all the requirements. However, if we are going to continue with our hybrid format and keep as many students and staff in school as possible, there are a few things that we all need to continue to be diligent about:

- Follow all of our mitigation strategies – this includes masking, social distancing, and hand hygiene.
- Please keep your student home if they are not feeling well. If you are unsure, do NOT put them on the bus or drop them off. Call and check in with your school nurse. We are always glad to help support you in these decisions. If you do not reach your school nurse before the bus arrives, do NOT put your student on the bus unless you are confident they are well, and you can answer all of the attestation questions with “No.”
- If you or someone who lives in your home tests positive for COVID or is placed on quarantine, please contact your school nurse right away. It will be essential to determine whether your student also needs to quarantine, and the nurse can help you with that. Please do NOT send your student to school without speaking with the nurse in this situation.

We have developed some flowsheets to help everyone understand the protocols for the many different situations that we can encounter with COVID symptoms, illness and treatment. I have linked those flow sheets as well as the daily attestation below. They are also linked on the NMRSD website on the COVID-19 Response page.

[When your student is sick at home](#)

[When your student is dismissed with COVID-like symptoms](#)

[NMRSD COVID Protocol Flow Sheets](#)

[Daily Student Attestation](#)

We appreciate your support as we work to keep all of our NMRSD students healthy, safe, and ready to learn!

## **Power Outages / Inclement Weather**

With one wind storm under our belt and some light snow, now is as good a time as any to go over expectations around power outages and inclement weather.

With that said, please review the bullets below on how NM will respond to certain scenarios:

### *Power Outages*

- Any partial or full-day that power is out at our students' homes will require them to make up the work within three days to count as attendance. Assignments will be graded based on [DESE guidance](#).

### *Inclement Weather*

- Due to the nature of our current half-day schedule, we will not have any delays called in this model. If the district typically would have called a delay due to weather, the district will call a remote learning day.
- If the school district is closed due to inclement weather, students will follow their entire schedule remotely from home. There will be no "snow days" this year. DESE guidance states districts must have:
  - procedures for all students to participate in remote learning, including a system for tracking attendance and participation;
  - remote academic work shall be aligned to state standards;
  - a policy for issuing grades for students' remote academic work; and
  - teachers and administrators shall regularly communicate with students and their parents and guardians, including providing interpretation and translation services to limited English proficient parents and guardians.

Since losing power at home and at school is possible, all teachers will be expected to have emergency assignments for the students to work on for the day. For example... If inclement weather is predicted, teachers will need to provide students with an emergency assignment(s) before they leave school the day before the expected weather. In order to prepare for weather-related emergencies, teachers will need to provide students with access to materials in advance. We recommend that teachers provide students with two or three days of potential assignments (similar to the Extended Learning Plan). Once a student has completed an assignment, he/she will be given credit for the assignment and for attending class. Students should be given up to three days to complete assignments in these situations and assignments will be graded.

The goal is always to provide students with the expected instruction on each day and moving down the line of options from in-person/hybrid instruction, fully remote instruction, then in an emergency, independent assignments as a last resort when power is an obstacle for teachers and/or students.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the aforementioned, please speak to your building administration.

### *Regarding School Cancellations...*

As I am sure you understand, calling for a delayed opening or cancelling school due to inclement weather is not an easy decision or one that I take lightly.

When making this type of a decision, I collaborate with our neighboring districts, our transportation company, the DPW in each of our member towns, and our Director of Facilities & Grounds.

While I will rarely make the decision the night before (this is New England, and the forecast is often fluid), I will make the call by 5:15 am. Closings will be posted on all major television networks and families listed in Aspen will receive a phone call, email, and text message as well from BlackBoard Connect. Additionally, it will be posted as a banner on our website. If you do not receive a phone call, email, or text message it usually means that the information we have for you in Aspen is not accurate.

Usually, the decision is based on whether or not our buses can run safely. With that being said, on the days when the road conditions are less than desirable, I would encourage our students to take the bus (this includes our student drivers). Keeping parents and student-drivers off the road will limit traffic. As a regional district, our students have the benefit of being guaranteed a seat on the bus.

In the end, I realize that regardless of my decision, some will disagree. If by chance a parent or guardian feels it is not safe for their child to go to school on a given day due to inclement weather, that is your prerogative as a parent or guardian, and the absence will be excused provided a signed note stating such is brought to the school the next school day.

### **NM Scholarships**

NM Students REMINDER...

It's time to earn your point for this year for the NM Scholarship Foundation. By selling ten raffle tickets, you will have earned your point!!! And will be entered in to win \$100!! Claim your ten tickets to sell by following this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D48ACAE28A1F4C70-earn>

This year's raffle is brand new and amazing. The winner of the NM Scholarship Raffle will win a two-night stay at a condo in Bristol, NH, along with four tickets for a day of skiing at Ragged Mountain.

Please sign up here for your set of 10 tickets to sell:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D48ACAE28A1F4C70-earn>

You can pick up your tickets on Wed, Nov 4th at NMRHS, drive up to the main entrance. See Sign-up Genius for details.

The drawing will take place in December.

We hope to have a great response to this fundraiser.

### **Community**

Please see the attached flyer for RecRemote.