



NMRSD Update
Sunday, February 14, 2021

Hybrid/Remote Instruction

Over the past several weeks, I have had the opportunity to visit almost every K - Grade 7 classroom in the district while Assistant Superintendent Milligan has focused on the high school.

With that said, we would like to recognize the great work that our teachers and paraprofessionals are doing with this new type of teaching. We have been so happy to see such a high level of quality, differentiation, and student engagement -- all of this with less than a few months to prepare for the unknown that this year has brought. We fully recognize the challenges that COVID-19 has presented to our staff, our students, and our parents/caregivers, and everyone has risen to the challenge.

We all had many questions about what the hybrid/remote learning model would look like, and we cannot begin to express our gratitude to all of our stakeholders who have helped to make this as successful as possible.

IMPORTANT - Move to Full-Day Hybrid /Monday, March 1st

As we prepare to move to a full-day hybrid model beginning Monday, March 1st, there is some information that needs to be shared with you:

- It is our plan that all schools will dismiss thirty (30) minutes¹ early to allow for Professional Learning Time for staff. This will result in schools dismissing at:
 - Elementary School: 2:35 pm
 - Middle School: 2:00 pm
 - High School: 1:24 pm

¹ Subject to collective bargaining

- Please note, there will be no after school care or internet cafes for the last 30 minutes of each day.
- As the district expectation is that all students are moving to a full day, we understand that some families may have trepidation with this transition. Families who do not feel comfortable with their child eating lunch in school are encouraged to reach out to the building administration to discuss the matter. If a family opts out of lunch, students MUST sign on to their GoogleMeet class(es) in the afternoon to receive credit for the day and participate in extracurricular activities that day. Please remember, in a full day, all students receive a 30-minute lunch. Therefore, a student would need to be dismissed during their lunch, travel home, and be back for their next class in 30 minutes. The district will be monitoring our plan change throughout March. A survey will be sent home to parents/caregivers in late March so that schools can finalize what their numbers will look like in the cafeteria. We will need to determine how to avoid students being marked as dismissed in Aspen, which will take some time, but it will be addressed.
- Any family that asks to move from “fully remote” to hybrid will need to wait a minimum of four (4) weeks or until it is feasible. It is possible that we will not be able to accommodate requests this year as we have a “set” number of teachers and classrooms along with a stringent set of physical distancing guidelines.

It is important to point out that the decision to change our model did not come without a great deal of thought. Through the Merrimack Valley Superintendents’ Roundtable, we are in regular contact with our colleagues (Ayer-Shirley, Groton-Dunstable, Tyngsborough, Billerica, etc.) who have been running a model that has included lunch for the entire year. These districts have not experienced issues around COVID-19 transmission as a result of running full days or offering lunch.

Virtual Superintendent Coffees

Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 9th at 4:00 pm.

Please copy and paste this link into your browser:

For Video: meet.google.com/xyv-jucc-unn

For Phone: [\(US\)+1 435-268-2189](tel:+14352682189) PIN: 715 301 750#

Upcoming Dates:

Tuesday, April 13th	4 pm
Tuesday, May 25th	9 am

When possible, both the Assistant Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services will attend. Please be sure to email me questions directly by 5 pm on Monday, April 12th. Where answering questions may often involve discussions with other district personnel, questions received after this point will likely not be answered.