



NMRSD Update
Friday, February 26, 2021

Congratulations ... to Mr. Tyler Lapierre (Hawthorne Brook Middle) on the birth of his son. Luka Jeffrey Lapierre was born on February 20th, weighing a healthy 10 pounds 1 ounce. Welcome to the NM family, Luka.

News on “April” Return to School

As I am sure you are aware, Governor Baker, Secretary Peyser, and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Commissioner Riley announced during a news conference on Tuesday, February 23rd, they would be advocating for a statewide full return to school in April. This is also in line with what President Biden is expecting within his first 100 days in office. Please know that all of this is subject to Commissioner Riley being granted permission to institute this change by the Board of Education (BOE) at an upcoming meeting that will likely be scheduled in the next two weeks.

At a follow-up meeting with Superintendents on Wednesday, February 24th, Commissioner Riley shared the following information so that we could begin planning for a significant change to our current model. While the Commissioner is allowing for a “phased in” approach beginning with K-5 students returning to full-time in-person learning on Monday, April 5th, he will also allow districts to bring all students back K-12 on the same date. I plan on asking the school committee on Monday, March 1st to authorize North Middlesex for a full K-12 student return on Monday, April 5th, if the Commissioner’s recommendation is approved by the Board of Education. If the Commissioner is granted approval, whether NMRSD returns K-5 initially and then later phase in 6-12 is a school committee decision, for which I will be asking them to vote on. ***If anyone would like to participate in the public comment portion of the school committee meeting agenda, please email me (bmorgan@nmrsd.org) by 5:00 pm on Monday, March 1st.***

The Governor and Commissioner cited several reasons, including the updated CDC guidance and state physicians¹, as to how to start reopening schools safely.² It is important to note that all mitigation strategies will stay in place including wearing masks, washing/sanitizing hands often, and maintaining physical distancing. Physical distancing will move from 6 feet to 3 feet in classrooms as recommended in the initial DESE guidance and transportation guidance was lifted on school buses for K-5 students³. Lunches will continue to be at 6 feet as masks are off. ***If any parents are interested in volunteering with lunch supervision, please reach out to reibye@nmrsd.org to let us know which school(s) and days you would be interested. If the assistance of volunteers is deemed helpful, we will reach out soon so that we can begin the CORI process.***

Please know that I realize this news is welcome to many, but will also be a source of anxiety for others. As we have done during the entirety of this pandemic, we will continue to work with families and respect all viewpoints with regard to COVID-19, as these are personal decisions. I also realize that this communication will generate many questions, but to clarify, I am sharing everything that I know at this point. As additional information becomes available, I will share it with you as soon as I can. The District will be sending out a confirmation form by the end of next week. The form will, for all intents and purposes, be the vehicle used for parents to determine how they will proceed on Monday, April 5th with regard to:

- If approved, families will have two options: **fully in-person** or **fully remote**. Parents and students can continue to utilize a remote learning option for the balance of this (2020-2021) school year if they choose, but remote learning will most likely not be an option for families moving into the next (2021-2022) school year. Families who wish to remain or opt into remote will be remote for the remainder of the current school year.
- If approved and a family changes models, there may be a change in the teacher due to district needs.
- If approved, families who are remote or currently not utilizing the bus and who wish to do so will need to notate that on the confirmation form.

Please note, as these changes are being tied to student learning time regulations, there will be other changes that will differ from previous expectations:

¹ [Physician's Letter 2-22-2021 PDF](#)

² [On the Desktop 2 23 21 Initial Information on Expanding In-Person Learning](#)

³ <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop.html> School Year 2020-21 Reopening Transportation Guidance, July 22, 2020 — Updated February 11, 2021

- In-person students will not be able to stream into classes for instruction. If a student is expected to be in-person and does not come to school, they will be marked absent. If a student is dismissed, they will not be able to attend the remaining classes virtually.
- If a student needs to quarantine, work will be provided to the student and they will be marked absent-excused.

In closing, I am confident that the outstanding educators in NM will do everything they can to make this potential change successful and as safe as possible. As previously mentioned, we will get out information as it is provided to us. Thank you for your continued support!!! We are NM!

Virtual Superintendent Coffees

Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 2nd **(NEW DATE - formerly 3/9 - to address potential questions)** 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 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, March 1st. Where answering questions may often involve discussions with other district personnel, questions received after this point may not be answered.

From the Community

Please see the attached TAYSA spring registration form.