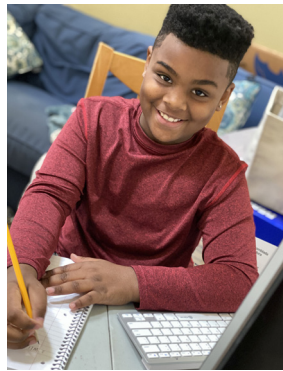


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NORTH PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT 2020-2021 RETURN TO SCHOOL



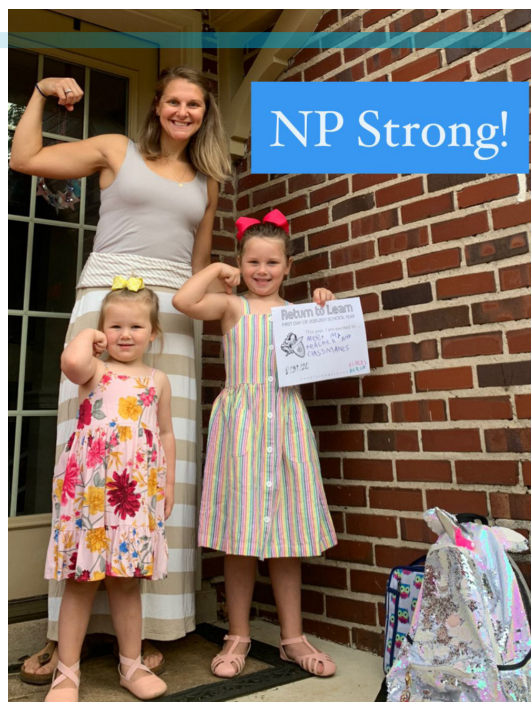
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The information contained in this booklet is correct as of 12/7/2020.
Continue to check resources.npenn.org/20-21_school_reopening
for up-to-date information.



A MESSAGE FROM DR. DIETRICH

NPSD SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear North Penn Families,

Finally, the day is here when all of our students can return to our schools. Since March 12, our students, staff and families have done what would have seemed impossible a short year ago. We found a way to educate our students in their homes while the nation and world faced the Coronavirus pandemic.

Though admittedly far from perfect, online learning was needed to keep our students and their families healthy. We adjusted and changed plans as needed, coordinated a commencement that will go down as one of the best in North Penn history and added a robust learning management tool, Canvas, to improve learning. Through it all, we continued to feed our students, ensure they had computers and internet access, and thought every single day about their welfare while planning for their hopeful return to school.

Since the shutdown of schools, recommendations have changed regularly in regard to the pandemic and how to manage it. With these changes came challenges in how to plan for our students' safe return. I want to thank the Montgomery County Office of Public Health for their coordinated partnership this entire time and their continued responsiveness to our needs.

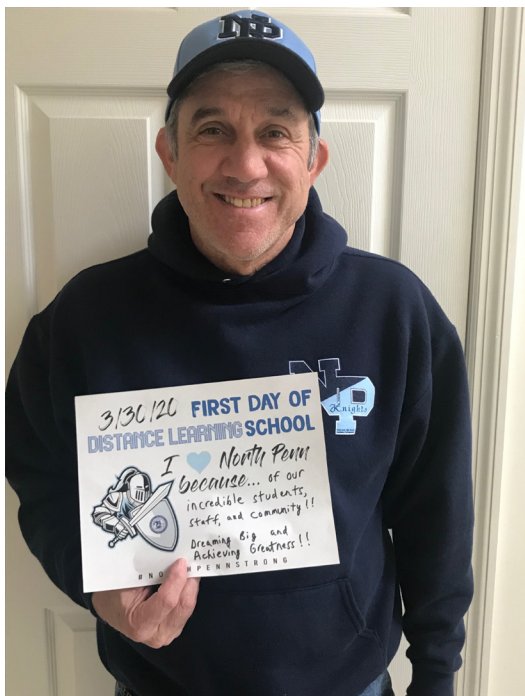
Perhaps most importantly, I must show my gratitude for the North Penn community, staff and students. Your patience, expectations and support have guided us in everything we have done and will continue to do to ensure our schools are safe, while at the same time provide the standard of education our students deserve.

On behalf of the entire NPSD administration and our Board of School Directors, welcome home to the 2020-2021 school year. We are so happy to see you.

Take care, and stay North Penn Strong,



Curtis R. Dietrich, Ed.D.
NPSD Superintendent



2020

2021

HYBRID MODEL

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DESCRIPTION

This option provides a blend of in-person and livestreamed instruction. Students will be broken into cohorts of either (A or B) to allow for smaller class size and appropriate social distancing of 6ft within the classroom. **Group H1 will attend school on Monday & Wednesday; Group H2 will attend school on Tuesday & Thursday. Group H1 and H2 will alternate attendance on Friday. Classes on Fridays will be dismissed two hours early for ALL students in order for teachers to have additional preparation time, beginning 11/6. October 30th will be a regular dismissal day.** When students are not receiving in-person instruction, they will be at home and lessons will be livestreamed from the classroom to their Chromebook (secondary students through Google Meet; Canvas will be utilized for content delivery both in-person and at home.) When receiving lessons livestreamed, students will have the opportunity to participate in the lessons. At times throughout the day, students will participate in asynchronous/independent work similar to being in the actual classroom.

ACTIVITIES

Clubs or other activities outside of the school day will be phased in as deemed necessary by each school. Each activity will follow the appropriate protocols and guidelines.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend daily whether in-person or at home receiving live streamed instruction. Teachers will take attendance each morning in homeroom for both in person and at home learning at the elementary level and at the start of each class for secondary students. Parents are required to follow our standard protocols for reporting a student absent by calling/emailing the main office attendance secretary (secondary families should not email the main office), homeroom teacher, or using the SafeArrival app to schedule an absence. Please refer to our elementary attendance guidelines in the

Elementary Handbook and our secondary attendance guidelines in the Middle School and High School handbooks.

The students, whether in-person or at home, will follow a typical schedule. Principals will assign students to either the A group or B group and will ensure families attend on the same days.

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Social distancing and isolation with a smaller group of students for the entirety of the school day
- ▶ Some live interaction with their classmates
- ▶ Continuity with their assigned teachers (homeroom teacher for secondary)
- ▶ Flexibility in the process if/when COVID-19 spread spikes; seamless transition in/out

MEALS: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Elementary bagged breakfasts will be offered at student entrances and eaten in classrooms; lunch will be eaten in either the cafeteria or gym. Students will have assigned seats with their cohort of students; they will be seated 6ft apart to maintain social distancing. Secondary bagged breakfasts will be offered at student entrances and eaten in classrooms; lunch will be eaten in designated large space areas. At the high school on Friday 2-hour early dismissals, bagged lunches will be offered to students as they leave the building.

MOVEMENT IN THE BUILDING

Students at the elementary level will remain in their homeroom for the entire day to receive instruction/lessons. Special area teachers will travel to the classrooms to provide lessons or, where feasible, conduct lessons outside. For the departmentalized grades, teachers will rotate classrooms to provide instruction in their content area. This will allow for less travel of students in the halls and stairwells. The master schedule will be designed to reduce the intermixing of staff and students and provide for greater social distancing. Throughout

SAMPLE HYBRID SCHEDULE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Group H1	Group H2	Group H1	Group H2	Group H1*
Week 2	Group H1	Group H2	Group H1	Group H2	Group H2*
Week 3	Group H1	Group H2	Group H1	Group H2	Group H1*
Week 4	Group H1	Group H2	Group H1	Group H2	Group H2*

* Classes on Fridays will be dismissed two hours early for ALL students in order for teachers to have additional preparation time, beginning 11/6. October 30th will be a regular dismissal day.

HYBRID MODEL

CONTINUED

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the day, students will be given mask breaks and movement breaks. Secondary students will follow a tradition bell schedule and will move about the building between classes.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

All students' desks will be 6ft apart in the classroom. Each student will have his/her own desk in the classroom and their own assigned seating in the cafeteria. All desks in the classroom will face the teacher; all students seated in the cafeteria will face the same direction. Other non-essential furniture has been removed from the classroom to provide additional space. Students and staff will maintain 6ft distancing in the classroom, cafeteria, and halls.

TECHNOLOGY

NPSD approved the use of grant money to purchase more than \$500,000 in video conferencing equipment to make this hybrid model robust and engaging. It will involve teachers interacting with online students via a large screen TV with camera, a microphone so students at home and in school can hear each other, and a wireless microphone for teachers to speak with online students directly. [Watch this video to better explain how the technology will work.](#) NPSD will continue to utilize Canvas as its learning management tool and other programs specific to individual teachers and courses. Students will be expected to bring their Chromebooks fully charged each day and take them home to charge each night. Tech support will be available to assist with any technical issues during the day.

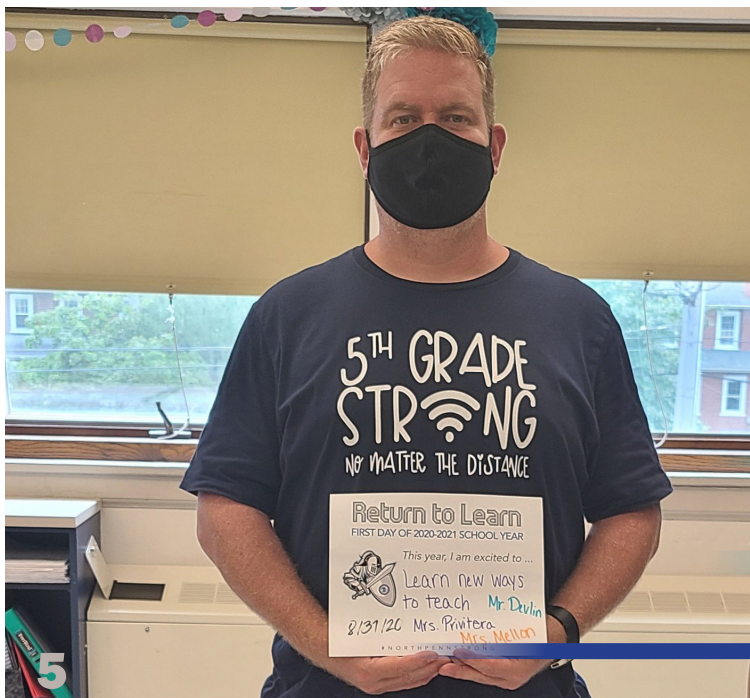
SPECIAL EDUCATION

The district will work with families of students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) to determine the type of instruction that best meets the unique needs of students.

Students with significant disabilities who are eligible for alternate assessment encompasses the 1-2% of students with disabilities who have the most significant needs. In recognition of the varied and complex needs of these students, those meeting this criteria have several options:

- ▶ Students may attend school for in-person instruction and related services five days per week during school hours.
- ▶ Students previously receiving in-home special education assistant support during virtual learning may elect to continue these supports while attending school virtually. This option is available only for families already accessing this service.
- ▶ Families who are not comfortable sending their children to school or having special education assistant support in the home may elect for virtual assistant support.

Students with disabilities who are not eligible for alternate assessment Students will attend school on a hybrid basis (2-3 days per week in person with the remaining days virtually). Specially designed instruction and supports will continue to be delivered for students to make progress towards their IEP goals. If a family believes that a student is in need of additional days in school beyond what is available through hybrid, they may make a written request for consideration through the educational selection survey sent to all families. Requests will be reviewed and honored wherever possible while keeping in mind the needs of the student as well as the public health guidelines of 6 feet of social distancing.



VIRTUAL MODEL

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DESCRIPTION

The 100% virtual model is an option parents/students can seek that will allow students to receive 100% of their instruction from their home. Students will receive their daily lessons and instruction via the teacher live streaming from the classroom to their Chromebook. At times during the day, asynchronous/independent work will be assigned similar to actually being in the classroom. Students will follow the typical schedule.

ACTIVITIES

Clubs or other activities outside of the school day will be phased in as deemed necessary by each school. Each activity will follow the appropriate protocols and guidelines.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend daily whether in-person or at home receiving live streamed instruction. Teachers will take attendance each morning in homeroom for both in person and at home learning at the elementary level and at the start of each class for secondary students. Parents are required to follow our standard protocols for reporting a student absent by calling/emailing the main office attendance secretary (secondary families should not email the main office), homeroom teacher, or using the SafeArrival app to schedule an absence. Please refer to our elementary attendance guidelines in the [Elementary Handbook](#) and our secondary attendance guidelines in the [Middle School](#) and [High School](#) handbooks.

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Social distancing and isolation with a smaller group of students for the entirety of the school day
- ▶ Continuity with their already assigned classroom teacher
- ▶ Provides for greater social distancing
- ▶ Provides continuity of a typical schedule
- ▶ Students can participate in lessons via livestream and interact with peers remotely

TECHNOLOGY

NPSD approved the use of grant money to purchase more than \$500,000 in video conferencing equipment to make this hybrid model robust and engaging. It will involve teachers interacting with online students via a large screen TV with camera, a microphone so students at home and in school can hear each other, and a wireless microphone for teachers to speak with online students directly. [Watch this video to better explain how the technology will work.](#) NPSD will continue to utilize Canvas as its learning management tool and other programs specific to individual teachers and courses. Students will be expected to bring their Chromebooks fully charged each day and take them home to charge each night. Tech support will be available to assist with any technical issues during the day.



COMMUNICATIONS

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Consistent, timely and accurate information is critically important to NPSD as we return to in-person learning. Since March 12, 2020, the district has updated specific areas of npenn.org with multiple resources and links regarding COVID-19 and [Virtual Learning](#). Updated information regarding 2020-2021 Return to School can also be found [here](#).

As with all district matters, multiple media are used for communicating to our families. Regular updates are provided via School Messenger and updated to the website. We will continuously add to our Question and Answer section of the Return to School webpage as inquiries are received. All school board meetings, many of which discuss matters pertaining to school reopening can be found at npenn.org.

It is important to remember that in all communications we must follow strict privacy guidelines to protect students and staff.

Positive Case Notification Process Protocols (In consultation with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health (MCOHP))

- ▶ **Close Contacts”** - The parents/guardians of any student who is determined to have had “close contact” with a COVID-19 confirmed positive individual will be notified directly (within 24 hours) by the building principal in conjunction with central office administration and the MCOHP.
- ▶ **Notification for those who are not “Close Contacts”** - Individuals in the school who are determined to not have been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive person will NOT be notified unless it is determined to be necessary in consultation with MCOHP.
- ▶ **School-Level and Broad Notification** - When it is determined, in consultation with MC DPH) that a school, group, team, etc. requires a special notification beyond the direct notification for close contact, the district and/or school will inform those individuals using School Messenger.

There may be times when NPSD will need to alter these protocols, depending on the state of the pandemic, but the above provides families parents with a summary for what to expect.



HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES

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CLEANING PROTOCOLS

The district's Facilities & Operations department will be responsible for daily cleaning and sanitizing of the buildings. The Custodial staff have been trained in the use of all cleaning and sanitizing products and equipment. The Facilities & Operations Supervisors and Head Custodians will perform inspections to ensure completion of all tasks. Teachers and students will wipe down desks throughout the day as well.

HANDWASHING

Students and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently throughout the day, especially before and after eating and after using the restroom. Hand sanitizer stations are located in each classroom and throughout the school building. Staff will reinforce good hygiene with students on a daily basis.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Students will be required to wear a mask and a supply will be available for students should they need a mask. In addition, district faculty and staff will be provided with necessary PPE. The district will maintain and monitor PPE to ensure an adequate supply to meet the needs of students and staff.

PHYSICAL CHANGES TO THE BUILDING

- ▶ Each classroom has a "hands-free" hand sanitizing dispenser.
- ▶ Plexiglass barriers have been provided in selected areas.
- ▶ An isolation area has been designated in each building for those persons exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.

SANITIZING

The district's Facilities & Operations department will be responsible for daily sanitizing of the buildings following all of the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) guidelines and protocols. Multiple methods will be utilized to sanitize the high touch areas and the building including liquid spray sanitizer, sanitizing wipes, and electrostatic disinfectant sprayers. All products used are EPA approved disinfectant products.

SIGNAGE

Signs as posters developed by the CDC are being placed through NPSD buildings to encourage and remind students and staff about social distancing and handwashing.

TRAVEL

The PA Department of Health recommends self-quarantine for 14 days upon returning from traveling to an area where there are high numbers of COVID-19 cases. A list of these states can be found on the [Information for Travelers](#) webpage along with other travel information. Please note that while the PA Department of Health is currently recommending quarantine, it may change to mandatory quarantine depending on the states' COVID-19 cases. Further, the listing may change.

VENTILATION

All district buildings have equipment that provides ventilation to the occupied spaces and most buildings have operable windows that can be opened. The District has an automated control system that controls the operation of all ventilation, heating and, where applicable, air conditioning systems. This provides the Facilities & Operations department with the ability to troubleshoot and monitor operations of the buildings. In an effort to improve the space air quality ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers) have provided additional guidance in a COVID-19 situation. This guidance includes operating the equipment two hours prior and two hours after occupancy. The purpose of this is to provide additional ventilation to the space when no occupants are present. All of North Penn's buildings will be following this guidance and recommendation.

BUSES



- ▶ Bus drivers will sanitize high-touch areas on the bus after dropping off students at each school on the bus run. At the end of the run, drivers will fully sanitize all surfaces on the bus with approved sanitizer.
- ▶ Once per week, buses will be sprayed with vital oxide via an electrostatic sprayer
- ▶ Assigned seating protocols will be used across all school settings as well as on the bus.
- ▶ Face coverings will be required on the bus.
- ▶ Students from the same household will be required to sit together and a seating chart will be in place for each bus run with buses loading from back to front.
- ▶ Increased ventilation through opening windows and roof hatch will occur when possible.

SCREENING, SELF-REPORTING & SCHOOL EXCLUSION

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One of the most important things parents/guardians can do to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is to keep your child home when sick. Any of the following symptoms may be a sign of COVID-19 and students and staff should remain home if exhibiting any of these symptoms:

- ▶ Fever or chills, particularly a fever over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
- ▶ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- ▶ Muscle or body aches
- ▶ New loss of taste or smell
- ▶ Congestion or runny nose
- ▶ Diarrhea
- ▶ Cough
- ▶ Fatigue
- ▶ Headache
- ▶ Sore throat
- ▶ Nausea or vomiting

The North Penn School District follows the direction and guidance of the Montgomery County Office of Public Health. The Office of Public Health has developed a school exclusion guide for students with symptoms of COVID-19, those with a positive COVID-19 test result, persons awaiting a COVID test, and individuals who have had close contact with a person who has contracted COVID-19. [Please view the guidance](#) or see below. In the event your child falls into one of these categories, please contact your school principal and school nurse immediately.

If a student or staff member is suspected of having COVID-19 while in school, the individual will be isolated until he or she leaves for home. Each building has identified an isolation room. The Office of Public Health will be notified. The district will follow direction from the Office of Public Health in terms of notifications to individuals who may have been in contact with the person suspected of having

There is currently no standard recommendation from the Office of Public Health as to when a classroom or school should be closed due to the spread of COVID-19 as each situation involves a unique set of circumstances. Decisions are made based on evidence of transmission with the school community. The Office of Public Health will work closely with North Penn School District to complete contact tracing and advise as to when a classroom or school must be closed. Families will be notified as soon as possible based upon direction from the Office of Public Health.

Updated December 7, 2020



COVID-19 School Exclusion Recommendations

Exclusion From and Return to School Recommendations

COVID-19 Symptoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two of the following symptoms: fever (measured or subjective), chills, fatigue, myalgia, headache, sore throat, congestion, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea OR One of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell 	<p>Individual should be tested for COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If test result is negative OR doctor's note with differential diagnosis, return to school after 24 hours afebrile and improved respiratory symptoms If test result is positive or individual is unable/refuses to get tested, may return to school after: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 hours with no fever and Improvement in symptoms and 10 days since symptoms first appeared 	
Positive COVID-19 PCR or Antigen (Point of Care) Test	WITH SYMPTOMS <p>May return to school after:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 hours with no fever and improvement in symptoms and 10 days since symptoms first appeared 	WITHOUT SYMPTOMS <p>May return to school after:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 days after specimen was collected <p><i>*If symptoms develop during the 10 days, follow return to school guidance for positive PCR or Antigen test with symptoms</i></p>
Close Contact to Positive* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within 6ft for 15 minutes or more Household contact <p><i>*Close contacts should be tested regardless of symptoms, however a negative test result does not end quarantine early.</i></p>	WITH SYMPTOMS <p>Individual should be tested for COVID-19</p> <p>May return to school after:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 hours with no fever and improvement in symptoms and 10 days since symptoms first appeared 	WITHOUT SYMPTOMS <p>Excluded 14 days after last date of exposure to the person with COVID-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household contacts may require further investigation, by either OPH or school officials, to determine dates of quarantine <p><i>A negative test does not allow an individual to end their quarantine period early.</i></p> <p><i>*If symptoms develop during the 14 days, follow return to school guidance for Close Contact with symptoms</i></p>
**PA Travel Mandate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critical workers are encouraged to wear both a face shield and mask and social distance, if unable to quarantine 	WITH SYMPTOMS <p>If symptoms develop during the 14 day return to PA, follow return to school guidance for COVID-19 symptoms</p>	WITHOUT SYMPTOMS <p>A negative COVID-19 test must be completed within 72 hours prior to entering PA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents who are unable to be tested before returning to the state can be tested upon return, but must quarantine until they receive their results If someone cannot or chooses not to be tested, they must quarantine for 14 days upon arrival in PA <p><i>This does NOT apply to travelers under age 11 or people who commute to and from another state for work or medical exemption. For more information, click here</i></p>

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

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The social and emotional well-being of students remains a priority for North Penn School District regardless of the location of instruction. Whether students attend school in person or virtually, social and emotional supports are available to all students.

The Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculum across all levels is designed to provide a developmental framework for instruction to support positive mental health, community building, cultural proficiency, and connectedness for our students. K-Fifth grades utilize the Second Step program as the primary universal social/emotional instructional resource. Sixth grade uses portions of Second Step as well as other supplementary materials. The research-based Second Step curriculum provides students direct and explicit instruction in social-emotional skills. Opportunities for practice are incorporated throughout the week. Kindergarten students also use techniques from the Responsive Classroom program to support social-emotional health as well.

At the secondary level, middle schools utilize Penn Time to provide social-emotional learning. Additionally, school counselors work with students and teachers to provide developmental guidance lessons. Each month encompasses a different theme such as self-respect and self-care, compassion and empathy, kindness and honesty, and more. At North Penn High School, the social-emotional learning plan seeks to create continuity across grade levels, provide organic support for students via social-emotional learning & MTSS best practices, support college and career readiness goals, integrate culturally responsive practices, teach life-long skills, and to create a standardized basis for community norms. Weekly and monthly activities have been planned.

In addition to school counselors, North Penn School District works with outside providers to provide services to students in need of support beyond the core program. A Student Assistance Program (SAP) Team is available to provide students with small group counseling and risk assessments. Additional counseling services are available individually as well. These supports are available to students both in-person and virtually.



RESOURCES

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HEALTH & SAFETY REOPENING PLAN

North Penn School District created a [Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan](#) for in-person instruction during yellow and green phases.

INTERNET ACCESS

Through funding from NPSD Educational Foundation, internet hotspots are available to families in need. For more information, contact npfamilytech@npenn.org.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- ▶ The Build-A-Bag Community Backpack Drive organized by the NPSD Educational Foundation provides backpacks and supplies for students in need. Families in need of supplies are encouraged to contact their school guidance counselor.



FREE CURBSIDE MEAL PICK-UP DURING HYBRID LEARNING

NPSD will continue to offer free breakfast and lunch bundles to all children 18 and under during hybrid learning. Any child 19 and younger may continue to pickup meal bundles, including hybrid students for days they will be virtually learning. We are providing a full week of meals per bundle.

- ▶ Curbside pick up will be available at A.M. Kulp, Bridle Path, General Nash, Gwyn-Nor, Gwynedd Square, Hatfield, Inglewood, Montgomery, North Wales, Oak Park, Walton Farm and York Ave elementary schools and Penndale Middle School (Knapp students are encouraged to visit Penndale).
- ▶ Pick-up days and hours will be rain or shine:
 - ▷ Tue: 11 am to 1 pm & 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm
- ▶ Holiday or alternative schedules will be announced in advance.
- ▶ Pull up to any of our curbside pick up locations during hours of operation and let an SNS team member know how many children you are picking meals up for and an SNS team member will place your meals in trunk.

TECHNOLOGY HELP

- ▶ Please send all technology requests regarding Chromebooks and Infinite Campus issues to npfamilytech@npenn.org.
- ▶ Use Live Chat through Google Hangouts Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. Once you enter the hangouts site, click the **+New Conversation** and add npfamilytech@npenn.org. Please note, all hangouts have been set up so that there is audio only, no video.
- ▶ Visit the Chromebook-related Frequently Asked Questions
- ▶ For information about student Chromebooks and more, visit the North Penn Digital Age Learning website.

EXTENDED SCHOOL CARE

Extended School Care will be available to current program members in grades kindergarten through 6 during hybrid schooling. For more information, contact Marjie Scott at scottme@npenn.org.

CONTACT US



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